



Shavuot (meaning “Weeks”) is one of the three pilgrimage festivals commanded in the Torah (the other two are Passover and Sukkot), that required people to come to Jerusalem to celebrate. The seven-week countdown from Passover to Shavuot (known as the

counting of the omer) as well as Shavuot, as a holy convocation, is found in the Torah in several places (Ex. 23:16; 34:22, Lev.23:15–21, Num. 28:26–31, Deut.16:9–12). Since Israel depended on rain and harvest cycles, Shavuot acknowledged God as the provider of the land’s abundance.

In Acts 2, Jewish pilgrims were in Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot when the Ruach HaKodesh was poured out on the disciples of Yeshua, enabling them to proclaim the Good News in many languages.

More than any other aspect of the holiday, Jewish tradition associates Shavuot with the giving of the 10 commandments on Sinai. This idea is not far-fetched since Israel arrived at Sinai in the third month after the Exodus and the timing aligns with the 50-day count after Passover.

Some Jewish traditions surrounding Shavuot include counting the omer leading up to Shavuot, reading the Book of Ruth, all-night Torah study and eating dairy, particularly sweet dairy.

For our Shavuot potluck, on Shabbat May 23, we will have a picnic after service. Seating will be available indoor and on the patio tables. Hot dogs and condiments will be provided. We invite people to bring additional finger foods such as sandwiches, individually bagged chips, salad, fruit, and brownies.

The more traditional Shavuot sweet dairy such as cheesecake, ice cream and cheese blintzes are highly encouraged and welcome!