

Shabbat Shalom!

Our Friday night Shabbat service for November 19th, 2021 took place this evening as scheduled.

Thanks to Gayle Twigger-Shaw who led us in the blessings for the lighting of the candles this week.

Many thanks to Rabbi Urecki, who delivered a wonderful devar Torah that tied the weekly reading and the two congregations together.

Our continuing appreciation to David Stern and Bob Morris for enhancing our services musically.

Thanks to Fran Thalheimer for offering us announcements for the week.

Thank you to Rich Katz for technical support in producing our service this evening.

And thank you to David McAfee for handling security and doors.

If you want to have a role in our services, please be in touch with Ronni Spudich about lighting candles, or Betty Stern about an Aliyah. If you want to lead a reading, read Torah, or lead part of or a complete service, please contact me.

The service tonight was not livestreamed to the Temple Facebook page, but I have tried to post a recording there in any case. You should be able to view the recorded service from tonight on the Temple Facebook – Scroll down to find this service recording on the Temple page here: <https://www.facebook.com/2550469431660054/>

The recording of the Zoom service is found here - you should be able to download this version if you wish.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1noK10EZqIfObacgwg3dWUJtT2mCX7V40/view?usp=sharing>

The board has voted to revert to the policy that the building will be open for in-person attendance at worship services. You are to be fully vaccinated and wearing a mask at all times in the building. Please also respect others wishes with regard to social distancing.

Please note: the service on November 26th (following Thanksgiving) will have no in-person attendance: no one will be in the building that day.

There is no entry to the building for any meetings, social events, classes, or programs, and no food or drink is being served.

The situation continues to be monitored, and will be re-evaluated periodically. If there is any change, we will send word as widely and in as many ways as we can. PLEASE continue to be careful and follow the guidelines. Please get vaccinated if you have not already done so; consider getting the booster when recommended, and be safe, be kind, and be well.

As always, I would love to hear from you. If you want to chat for a few minutes, please let me know. We have many options available - on the phone, in a zoom meeting, or by text or email. Whatever works best for you. You can just let me know when you want to talk and we can arrange a time, or tell me when you are free and I can get in touch with you. I do ask your indulgence – at times I get overwhelmed, and may be slower to respond to calls or messages; I appreciate your patience with me during those times. It is never that I don't want to talk to you; please accept that as a given.

I sent the Thursday REMINDER LINKS Email with links and details about accessing the events coming up over the weekend and for next Monday yesterday evening (Thursday) – please save it, or transfer the link information to your calendar. If you didn't get that REMINDER LINKS Email, or any other, please contact me and I will re-send it to you. This week there will NOT be a SUNDAY REMINDER LINKS EMAIL – the only event during the period of Monday-Thursday is the Zoom Check-in on Monday, included in the Thursday Reminder Links Email sent. Another Thursday Reminder Links Email will be sent out on Wednesday or Thursday with information on events from Friday thru Sunday of the coming weekend (after Thanksgiving).

If someone wishes to be added to our email list, we can arrange that – just ask them to let me know directly (by email or text), so we are sure not to 'spam' anyone.

SIDDUR (PRAYER BOOK)

In light of the changing circumstances, the CCAR is providing free flipbooks for Mishkan T'fillah. To view the flipbooks as well as other resources, including discounts on print books and materials, visit https://www.ccarnet.org/publications/resources-repaginated/#dfliip-df_10112/1/. You can also arrange to borrow a Siddur (Prayer Book) for Shabbat, Festivals, and Weekdays by contacting me (the rabbi), or the office (Greg), and arranging a time to pick one up.

TZEDAKAH

There is a continuing and large need around the world – please consider giving Tzedakah to help.

Many major organizations (AJWS, HIAS, JWA, JFNA, JNF, Mazon, Federated Jewish Charities, for example) and local groups (Covenant House and RCCR, as some examples) are doing meaningful work and could use your help. Critical needs exist locally and around the world that are worthy of support – please choose those that match your values and help as much as you can.

OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES

If you have attended a Shabbat service recently, or listened to the recordings, you heard Fran Thalheimer listing many of the options for actions with the Reform Action Center (RAC), the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), and the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), and other groups. There are efforts in the areas of Voting Rights and many other social justice issues. Please contact Fran Thalheimer, or the RAC, URJ, or WRJ directly, for information.

I am sure you have seen the listing of items requested for the Adopt-A-Family that Temple Israel is sponsoring. If you have any questions, or wish to make a donation, Ditty Markham and Dona Hall are heading up this effort. See the Bulletin for details. The deadline has been extended to December 6th.

The West Virginia Council of Churches Interfaith Program Unit has decided to undertake a Tzedakah / Social Action project each month, starting in December 2021. The first event is December 10th. We will collect new or gently used towels and washcloths, toiletries, socks and underwear, which will be delivered to Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, where the unhoused are being provided an opportunity to safely shower. This type of self-care is especially important during cold weather. I am participating in this initiative, and hope that you will join me in doing so. You can drop off donations (items or funds – make check payable to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund with a memo "WV Council of Churches") for this project at the Temple, and I will make sure they are delivered.

There are other options; if you want to learn about them, please be in touch.

Hanukkah Dinner

On Saturday, December 4th at 5:30 pm, Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob are offering a Hanukkah candle lighting and dinner for members of Temple Israel and B'nai Jacob. Those who wish to attend must be vaccinated and wear a mask when not eating. The meal will be served in tents outside the Temple; there will be lights and heaters in the tents. There is no cost. The title of this event is 'Let There Be Hanukkah Lights' – you are encouraged to bring your own Hanukiah and light candles there. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Shelly and David Winowich by phone or email.

Wishing you a Shabbat shalom, and a Shavuah tov! Happy Thanksgiving, and a Chag Urim Sameach! Stay safe and well.

Joe

Rabbi Joe Blair