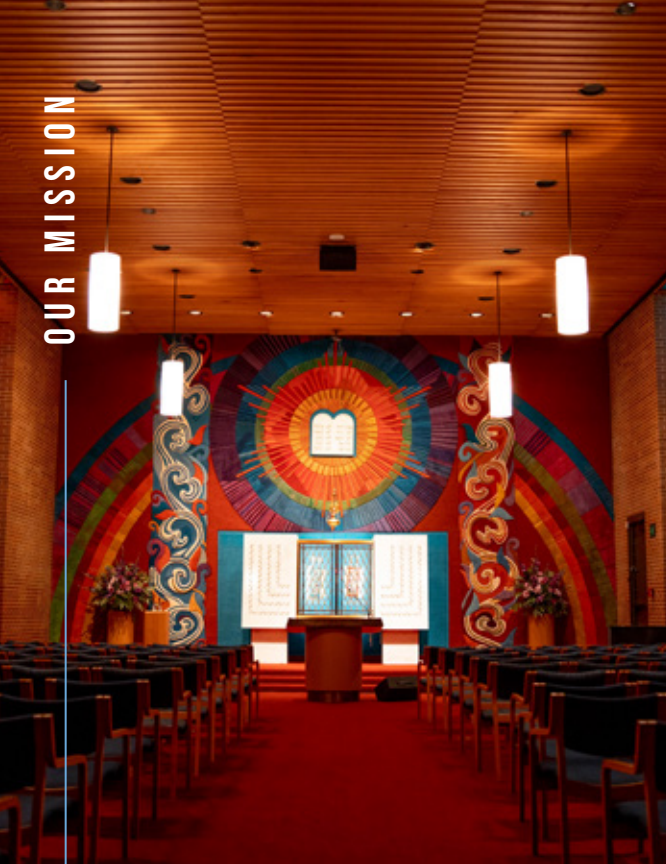






Temple Israel is a sanctuary for prayer and inspiration, a vibrant center for Jewish learning, and a congregational home for living Torah. We are a source of strength and a force for good for Reform Jews, the greater community, and the world.



We are a vibrant center for Jewish learning.

L'dor V'dor, from generation to generation – Temple is a community that encourages lifelong learning and exploring Jewish identity. Starting with our Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center and young family programs, spanning our Wendy & Avron Fogelman Religious School, teen programs, music offerings, adult learning opportunities, Judaism classes, social justice initiatives, and every community within and beyond the walls of our buildings, we have something for every season of Jewish life.



We are a source of strength for Reform Jews, the community, and the world. We are a force for good.

We are proud to partner with local organizations and initiatives that reflect the Jewish values of the Reform Movement and our commitment to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), including Jewish Community Partners, Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA), and the Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope (MICA).

We are a congregational home for living Torah.

At Temple Israel, our mission is to extend “audacious hospitality” to all we encounter. Just as the semicircle of our sanctuary remains outwardly open, we remain committed to making space for the entire community and directing our Jewish values to reach beyond the walls of our buildings.



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At Temple Israel, we cultivate a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community where individuals can connect with their heritage, explore their faith, and engage in meaningful acts of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world. We strive to create a warm and welcoming environment where our members support one another on their spiritual journeys by celebrating and learning together.

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LEIGH MANSBERG
Temple Israel President



Temple Israel is the oldest and largest Jewish congregation in Tennessee. Our roots are deep and strong. Originally known as Congregation B’nai Israel (Children of Israel), the congregation was formed in 1853 by 36 families who had immigrated from Germany. It was chartered by the State of Tennessee on March 2, 1854, seven years before the start of the Civil War. After worshiping in private homes for several years, the members leased a former bank building on the corner of Main and Exchange and remodeled it for use as a synagogue. This wooden building, dedicated in 1858 by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder of American Reform Judaism, was the first permanent Jewish house of worship in Tennessee. As time went on the congregation constructed, settled, and outgrew two more synagogues before erecting its current house of worship on 30 wooded acres on East Massey Road in 1976. The building and grounds are a beautiful blend of form and function and a treasure to the thousands who call it their spiritual home.

Temple Israel was formed by 36 German Jewish immigrant families in 1853.

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Since its inception, Temple Israel has been blessed with visionary lay leadership and the spiritual leadership of eight remarkable senior rabbis, each of whom inspired among the members a passionate commitment to community service.

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JUDY RINGEL
Temple Israel Historian





Through its programs and people, Temple Israel illuminates Jewish tradition and provides a nurturing home for spiritual growth, learning, and support. The enduring pride and love that members feel toward Temple is an integral part of our identity and has sustained our mission for more than 160 years.

“My family has been affiliated with Temple Israel for more than 45 years now. Watching my children and grandchildren grow up here, attend the Early Learning Center and Sunday School, and become B’nai Mitzvah has literally brought joyful tears to our eyes. This is the true meaning of L’dor V’dor!”

People of all backgrounds come to Temple for Jewish enrichment and a deepened ability to know and live Judaism. They come to us as they enter new marriages, blend two families, raise Jewish children, confront changing stages of life, embrace new challenges, or celebrate life events.

It is the diversity of our congregants and our community’s sense of inclusiveness that make Temple Israel such a special place.

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RALPH YAFFE
Temple Israel Member



Temple Israel's clergy enjoy a proud legacy of involvement in the Memphis community, taking leadership roles in interfaith activities and on local agency boards. They are involved regionally and nationally in the work of the Union for Reform Judaism, as well as in their respective professional organizations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the American Conference of Cantors, making Temple Israel recognized throughout the country.

Our clergy teach, counsel, pray, and perform baby namings, b'nai mitzvahs, weddings, funerals, conversion ceremonies, and so much more.



RABBI MICAH D. GREENSTEIN
Senior Rabbi

RABBI JEFF DREIFUS
Assistant Rabbi

RABBI ROSS Z. LEVY
Assistant Rabbi

EMILY GROFF HEILBORN, M.ED
Music & Cantorial Director



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The staff and clergy at Temple Israel are committed to creating a safe and spiritual environment for everyone. Our members are committed to preserving our distinguished legacy in the Memphis community and to creating a welcoming congregational home for all.

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LAURA YACoubIAN
Interim Executive Director



A Place for Prayer and Spiritual Fulfillment

Responding to the diverse needs of our membership, Temple Israel offers numerous paths to Judaism with many opportunities for worship and spiritual growth.

- Spiritual and song-filled Shabbat services every Friday evening
- Tot Shabbat for the little ones in our community and their families
- A myriad of spiritual and uplifting services for the High Holy Days and other Jewish Holidays
- Shabbat services on Saturday mornings when B'nai Mitzvah are being observed



A Place for Learning

Temple Israel's education program covers a wide range of opportunities for all ages.

A Place to Connect and Serve

The Temple Israel community is vast and vibrant. Wherever your passions align, there is a space for you! We maintain a steadfast commitment to social justice and community service. Our congregation has been an integral part of the fabric of life in Memphis – caring for the sick during yellow fever epidemics, working for civil rights, and fostering interfaith relations. This involvement has been the hallmark of our historic faith community for more than 160 years.





Wendy & Avron Fogelman Religious School (Grades K-12)

The Wendy & Avron Fogelman Religious School cultivates a positive Jewish identity and a deep connection to the Jewish community for each student, kindergarten through high school.



Temple Israel University (TIU)

Lifelong learning is a core value at Temple Israel, and TIU is the umbrella under which all adult education happens. It is a mitzvah to study, and we aim to deepen your Jewish life at Temple throughout your adult years. No experience is necessary! Temple offers classes with a wide array of focus – everything from weekly Torah Study, Hebrew Classes, special guest speakers, and much more.



Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center (Infant-Jr. K)

The Barbara K. Lipman Early Learning Center is a nationally accredited program providing a high-quality academic experience for children of all faiths. The BKL ELC strengthens the social, emotional, and cognitive growth of its students in a Jewish setting. We give priority to Temple Israel members, but enrollment is open to the community.



B'nai Mitzvah (Grade 7)

Students receive individualized preparation to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah under the guidance and support of the education department, clergy, lay leaders, and mentors. In the B'nai Mitzvah program, students:

- Prepare** to lead the Shabbat service in which they become B'nai Mitzvah;
- Learn** to read or chant Torah and Haftarah portions, and
- Explore** and participate in social action programs and projects.





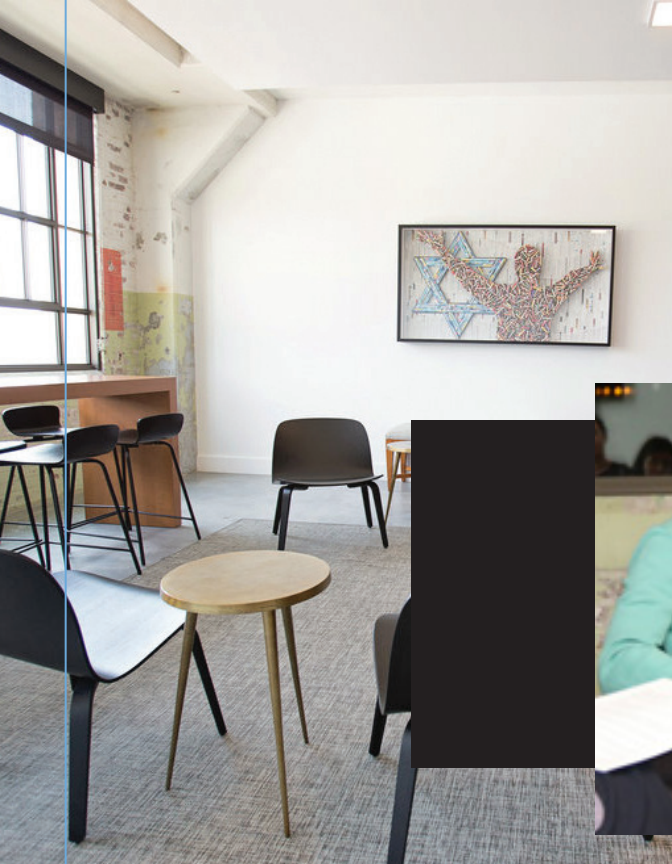
The East Massey Campus

Temple Israel is located on a 30-acre wooded campus in the heart of East Memphis at 1376 East Massey Road. New members and families are always welcome at Temple Israel. Inside these walls you will find the vibrant worship centers, the Greenstein Sanctuary and Danziger Chapel, the Temple Israel Museum, the Ettelson-Wax Hall and the Scheidt Family Center used for social events, and the Temple Israel Judaica Shop. Visit timemphis.org/facilities to learn more.



Temple Israel at Crosstown Concourse

Temple Israel at Crosstown Concourse offers congregants unprecedented opportunities to connect with Judaism, the larger Memphis community, and unaffiliated Memphis newcomers and Downtown/Midtown Jews. Temple Israel – Crosstown is located off the Central Atrium on the 4th floor in Suite 457 and is open for specific programming and by appointment.



The Temple Israel Cemetery & Levy-Cooper Chapel

Judaism teaches that our cemeteries are equally as important as our synagogues. Wherever Jews have lived, across time and space, burial societies were the top priority to care for loved ones who are no longer with us.



In 1846, the first Jewish Cemetery in Tennessee was quietly created when a plot of land was purchased by Joseph I. Andrews to bury his brother, Samuel E. Andrews. To this day, it is one of the most historic and beautiful cemeteries in the Jewish world and has served as the congregation's burial ground since 1846. A special section of the cemetery established in 1900 contains remains that were moved from the congregation's burial ground on Bass Avenue (later Jefferson Avenue). The Levy-Cooper Chapel was constructed on the grounds in 2006 and has held congregational services since January of 2007. It is a 150-seat venue that provides year-round weather protection for those attending funerals and other ceremonies on the grounds. For the last thirty plus years, the grounds have been dutifully and lovingly cared for by Russ Campbell, Cemetery & Grounds Director, and his team.



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Temple Israel aims to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people, which is why we need you – your unique gifts and passions.

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We are a vibrant and diverse congregation, and we open our doors to you as a warm and welcoming place of prayer, learning, and community. We are always evolving to provide Jews of all backgrounds and ages with a place to feel at home. We are a source of strength during times of need as well as times of blessing and joy.

We invite you to become a part of our extraordinary community by formally becoming a member of Temple Israel. Your membership ensures the vitality and endurance of Jewish life in the South, strengthens our prominent progressive voice in the world, and affirms your support and care for our community.

Temple Israel aims to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people, which is why we need you – your unique gifts and passions. With every new member, our family grows richer.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we raised the bar to reach our members and maintain a spiritual connection. Our virtual platform continues to connect us in new and innovative ways, breaking the boundaries of distance and disability. Our 30-acre campus keeps us grounded. Even our Cemetery – among the oldest in the South – is brimming with life. We look forward to meeting with you and welcoming you personally to our extraordinary Temple Israel community.



RABBI MICAH D. GREENSTEIN
Senior Rabbi

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Welcome to Temple Israel!

Families who have been a part of the congregation for generations alongside our newest members are the pulse of Temple. In this sanctuary, you will find a rich community of people with diverse passions and lives - all committed to creating a loving, spiritual home. Together, we keep Reform Judaism vibrant in the Mid-South. I hope you join us.

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JAN REISMAN
Membership & Special Events Director
janr@timemphis.org | 901.937.2781

Contact Jan Reisman, Membership Director, at janr@timemphis.org or 901.937.2781, or visit timemphis.org/join-our-family to request more information about becoming a member at Temple Israel.

Our Exploring Judaism Class is a great way to learn about all things Jewish! Led by Temple Israel’s clergy and master teachers, Exploring Judaism is for those born Jewish, interested in Judaism, contemplating conversion, or entering a marriage with a Jewish partner. Learn more at timemphis.org.

Embracing Judaism is a marvelous experiential course for future Jews-by-Choice. It is by invitation only following each conversion candidate’s rabbinic sponsorship with Temple Israel clergy. Our clergy will be involved to guide each participant at every step of the way.





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