

voice

SHABBAT SERVICES

Torah Study

Shabbat Mornings, 8:45-9:45 am
With our clergy, learn about each
week's Torah portion.

Friday, July 2

6:15 pm
Rabbi Adam Grossman

Saturday, July 3

10:00 am
Samuel Naid, son of Julie and Bill
Naid, will become Bar Mitzvah.

Friday, July 9

6:15 pm
Rabbi Adam Grossman

Saturday, July 10

10:00 am
Rabbi Katie Bauman

Friday, July 16

6:15 pm
Rabbi Micah Greenstein

Saturday, July 17

10:00 am
Rabbi Adam Grossman

Friday, July 23

6:15 pm
Cantor John Kaplan

Saturday, July 24

10:00 am
Cantor John Kaplan

Friday, July 30

6:15 pm
Rabbi Adam Grossman

Saturday, July 31

10:00 am
Rabbi Katie Bauman

LIVE, FROM TEMPLE, IT'S FRIDAY NIGHT!

Temple Israel has implemented a new way to reach Temple members, potential members, and guests.

One of the experiences that says the most about who we are as a congregation is our 6:15 Shabbat service. It's informal, warm, spiritual, challenging, and creative. There are hundreds in our community who make it a regular part of their week, and there are many others who are curious about it or who find themselves unable to come. In recognition of that reality, we've made it possible to watch Shabbat services live, online, by going to Temple's website, www.timemphis.org. The technology is called streaming, and it will be available to anyone who wishes to tune in.

Temple Israel is among the first congregations in the country to make this tool available, and we're proud to say that we're leading the way into the future. What can this tool help us do and be, and what does it mean for Temple? Only last summer, the cover story in Reform Judaism Magazine was entitled "CyberSanctuary," and it discussed at length the possibilities for community-building that arise when technology is harnessed in this manner.

The article noted, "**Reform Jews, congregations, and institutions are turning toward technology to develop innovative practices that enrich worship, enhance sacred space, educate, and build community within the synagogue and beyond.**" While Judaism depends on the actual presence of a congregation--that's why tradition says we need a minyan--live streaming of Shabbat services gives members of our Jewish community the chance to be connected to Temple even when we can't all be here.

Emily Grotta, then Director of Marketing and Communications for the URJ, emphasized in the article the important point that, "...this technology is a means to an end, not the end itself. What is crucial is the content, not the way it is delivered." Judaism is about enriching our lives through community, prayer, rituals, and values, all of which are embodied in our Shabbat services. This technology allows us to share the powerful content of our worship experiences with those who cannot be in the room.

Finally, the article emphasized, "Indeed, technology is changing how temples build and nurture rich, meaningful community." In the past, when someone couldn't be inside Temple Israel, he or she had no chance to feel a part of what's happening here. On-line streaming is changing that reality.

Temple's clergy look forward to this exciting way to reach people.

Rabbi Adam Grossman said, "**Whether in Memphis, around the country, or across the world, streaming provides even more opportunities to enrich and enhance our communal experience and individual Jewish expressions.**"

"There are many barriers to passing through the doors at Temple," said Rabbi Katie Bauman. "Sometimes they're physical, when distance or health prevents someone's presence here. Other times, the barriers are social or emotional, when someone feels unsure of what to expect or hesitant to go somewhere he or she has never been. Streaming is a way to remove these barriers in the hope that when circumstances allow, passing through Temple's doors will feel like coming home, for members and visitors alike."

So check it out! "We're thrilled to be able to offer this phenomenal tool to our congregation and beyond," stated Isti Bardos, Temple's Communications Director. "It's a literal and figurative connection to Temple Israel."

