WELCOME!

The doors of our *kehila k’dosha* (sacred community) are wide open to you. In the pages that follow, you’ll get just a glimpse of life at Adas. We very much look forward to welcoming you, answering any questions you may have, and guiding you through the start of your journey in our congregation.

Adas Israel seeks to create a unique, shared space where we can discover what it means to be human and to be part of a sacred community. Through the medium of Judaism, we foster moments that celebrate the joy and wonder of being alive, and of finding intimacy & connection in the presence of each other.
Hello! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to tell you about our wonderful community at Adas Israel Congregation. We are a vibrant, dynamic, multi-generational synagogue that offers access to Jewish life and community for people of all backgrounds.

For more than 145 years, Adas Israel Congregation has been a flagship synagogue in American Jewish life, and that tradition of leadership and excellence continues today in an atmosphere of warmth and welcome. The greatest strength of Adas Israel is the community itself. Our synagogue members care about each other and about what goes on here. We care about having a meaningful experience of our Judaism and we all join together in many different ways to find our way into the tradition. We also care about the wider world. We think about our place in Washington, and the many ways we can help improve the world we live in. At Adas Israel Congregation, we draw from the wisdom of the Torah for insight and strength in all that we do. Every service, every class, every program, and every meeting at Adas Israel has the potential to be a learning opportunity as well as an opportunity to reach out to each other and to the world.

Adas Israel Congregation is a place for us all to come home and to celebrate the joys of Jewish life together with our families and friends. We very much look forward to meeting you and to answering any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you here!

L’Shalom,
Rabbi Gil Steinlauf
Pray

Inspired Religious services are at the heart of Adas activities and are designed to be entirely participatory.

Whether it’s our meaningful daily minyanim or our wide variety of Shabbat and holiday services, there is an inspirational moment waiting for you at Adas. Women and men are encouraged to take part equally.

Shabbat @Adas Israel

Shabbat is the Jewish People’s eternal oasis in time. At Adas Israel, members can celebrate Shabbat with a variety of different service experiences – some clergy-led, some lay-led – each with a unique flavor all its own. Our services are traditional and experimental, contemplative and joyful. They are a fusion of spirit and purpose, old and new, people and prayer.

find yours...
Friday Night Services

*We’re very excited about our Friday night lineup! Each of our various services has a name, a focus, and a ruach (spirit) all its own:*

**Kabbalat Shabbat Services**
A joyous, traditional service with clergy and community

**Return Again to Shabbat Services**
A wildly popular, soulful, musical Shabbat experience, followed by Israeli Shabbat dinner

**Traditional Lay-Led Service**
Lay-Led, traditional service without instruments with good friends, and good ruach (spirit)

**L’Dor VaDor Shabbat Services**
A family friendly, multi-generational Shabbat experience, followed by a warm Shabbat dinner

**Shir Delight Young Professionals Shabbat Service**
Shir Delight is Adas Israel’s Kabbalat Shabbat experience for young professionals between the ages of 21 and 35

**Young Families Shabbat Service**
A wonderful, musical service & dinner for families with PreSchool age children

Saturday Shabbat Services

*We continue to offer a variety of Shabbat morning services. Torah, song, and community for everyone is available in whatever setting, style, and speed is most comfortable for you:*

**Saturday Morning Shabbat Service**
Clergy-led community service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

**Traditional Egalitarian Minyan**
Lay-Led, traditional community service

**Havurah Shabbat Service**
A Lay-Led, participatory service that has met for 40 years

**Youth Services @ Adas**
We have a great lineup of services for the young ones, for all ages. *See Youth and Education page*

**Learner’s Minyan**
Become better acquainted with the structure and ritual of Shabbat worship

**Shabbat Mincha (Afternoon Services)**
Join us for a Saturday afternoon of prayer, Torah, and learning
One of the great benefits of synagogue membership is the opportunity to celebrate the Jewish holidays with friends and family in a warm, welcoming community. We offer a wonderful variety of worship experiences throughout the Jewish calendar year. We look forward to celebrating another year’s worth of Jewish holidays and traditions with you and your family.

High Holy Days

High Holy Day tickets for you and every member of your household are included with membership. We look forward to worshipping with you during the holiest time of year.
Evening Minyan
Sunday – Thursday at 6:00 pm

Twice daily, we have the opportunity to strengthen our community by participating and sharing in the joy and responsibility of making a minyan. By attending the Daily Minyan, we share in a ritual that has endured for centuries and will endure for time to come. Adas Israel’s daily morning and evening minyan services, are wonderful opportunities to take a meaningful moment out of your day, to connect with friends, to reach out to grieving congregants, to welcome visitors, and to strengthen old friendships.

The Daily Minyan

Morning Minyan
Monday – Friday at 7:30 am
Sundays and *legal holidays at 9:00 am (*except Columbus & Veteran’s Day).

Evening Minyan
Sunday – Thursday at 6:00 pm
The Gan HaYeled PreSchool @Adas Israel

The Gan at Adas Israel Congregation is a warm and welcoming, NAEYC Accredited preschool known for its strong community of students, faculty & parents. Offering a unique play-based curriculum, our students, aged 6 months to Pre-K, are part of a vibrant community of learners, parents, and superior staff.

Learn more about the Gan at [www.adasisrael.org/gan](http://www.adasisrael.org/gan) or call 202-362-4491

Now offering a variety of class structures:
Mornings-Only (3hrs) / Morning + Afternoon (6hrs) / Full-Day (10hrs)
Religious School @Adas Israel

Our nationally recognized religious school provides an education designed to inspire our students to lead their lives as identified, committed Jews and ethical human beings. Our purpose is to instill Jewish values and a sense of pride in all our pre-K thru 12th grade students.

Visit www.adasisrael.org/religious-school or call 202-362-4449 to learn more and register for school.

Shabbat Youth Services for Children & Families

- Tot Shabbat (For children 5 and under)
- Netivot (For K – 3rd graders)
- Junior Congregation (For 4th – 6th graders)

Youth @AI

Allowing youth to connect and celebrate their Jewish spirit, Youth@AI is a fun, friendly, energetic program for children of our members. We offer youth groups and activities for four different age ranges, from K-2 to high school.

Visit adasisrael.org/youth to learn more.
Adult Learning, Classes & Workshops

Being a member at Adas Israel affords you endless opportunities to be immersed in a wealth of Jewish experiences, learning opportunities, and daily chances to go deeper into your Judaism and your community. Our 21st Century learning approach includes innovative approaches to engaging with Jewish text and *chavruta* learning (partnered, face-to-face learning). We welcome all levels of background and knowledge, and we are not afraid to ask the big questions in a warm, authentic, substantive environment.

**Basic Judaism Classes**
The Adas Israel clergy offer a variety of classes to help you brush up on your Judaism throughout the year. Classes can include Intro to Judaism, Intro to Talmud, Weekly Torah Study, Basic Hebrew, Conversion Workshops, and more.

**Informal Learning**
Adas Israel is a hub for community-led learning, with many study groups and *chavruta* pairs having emerged over the years and thriving to this day. Our membership team will be happy to connect you with ongoing study groups and informal get-togethers with community members.
MakomDC

MakomDC is an exciting new learning & engagement center in the Biran Beit Midrash (House of Study) @ Adas Israel.

MakomDC features monthly thematic programming, welcoming innovators, and innovative ideas in 21st century Jewish life. This is a one-of-a-kind synagogue initiative that can’t be found anywhere else, and offers regular opportunities to go deeper into a variety of Jewish concepts and issues with community leaders and clergy.

MakomDC is primarily housed within our new Biran Beit Midrash (House of Study), which boasts comfortable seating and tables for lively discussion, books and technology, coffee and snacks, speaker jams, art, engaging sessions, free Wifi, and even interactive prayer services. It’s a place where people, ideas, and Jewish experiences collide.

Visit www.adasisrael.org/makomdc for a full list of events, classes, and programs.
Tikkun Olam
(Social Action Projects)

Adas Israel offers its members many ways to participate in the mitzvah of Tzedakah (charity), Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness) under the leadership of our Social Action Council. Through our many projects which take place all year, there are many opportunities for you to join with the community to make our world a better place.

Highlights Include:
- Food Pantry Collections
- Drives for the Homeless and Hungry
- Home and Property repairs for those in need
- Monthly Vigils for Darfur
- Holiday Tzedakah Projects

Visit www.adasisrael.org/tikkunolam to learn more and to get involved!
The JMCW @ Adas is a cutting edge, one-of-a-kind project at Adas. Offering programs and workshops to help deepen our experience of the spiritual, and create connections to foster a vibrant, diverse spiritual community. Experience Jewish Meditation, Yoga, Mindful Learning, and spirited Shabbat & Holiday programs... all within a uniquely Jewish context.

Visit adasisrael.org/jmcw to learn more.

Highlights Include:
- Tuesday Meditation Sessions with Engaging Rabbis
- Mindful Jewish Yoga Every Sunday Morning
- Monthly Musical, Soulful Shabbat Services
- Tuesday Morning Meditation with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

“The beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living.”

~Abraham Joshua Heschel
Life @ADAS

There is a place for you at Adas Israel. Often described as a “community of communities,” the congregation is diverse and robust, with many people from many different walks of life. Each community and cohort offers unique opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals, or those in similar stages of life.
A few examples of our active communities include:

HAZAK
A community of members ages 55+

Tikkun Olam/Social Action
Repairing the world one project at a time.

Sisterhood
Embracing women of all ages

Men’s Club
Hangin’ with the boys!

Young Professionals (YP@AI)
Connecting YPs between the age of 21-35

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington
Embodyed Jewish Spirituality for Body, Heart & Soul

Adas-Behrend Senior Fellowship
Daily Lunch for seniors in the community (with the DCJCC Program)

Interfaith Households
You and your family are invited to worship with us!

Community Support Groups
There with you at your time of need

Adas Israel is a place for us all to call home and to celebrate the joys of Jewish life together with our families and friends. Featuring a strong culture of volunteerism, there are literally dozens of committees and projects for you to get involved in. We invite you to take ownership of your community and make a real difference.

Visit www.adasisrael.org to learn more.
Arguably one of the most important and rewarding benefits of joining a *kehila k’dosha* (sacred community) is the warmth and meaning derived from marking all of life’s milestones with the beauty of Jewish tradition and community support. No matter what stage of life you find yourself, we are here for you in whatever way you need.
**Bereavement**
Your community is here to support you in your time of need. The synagogue offers a welcoming, inviting, warm & supportive environment where we can all process, reflect and join together. Adas Israel owns and maintains its own historic cemetery in DC and we offer a bereavement support group which meets every second Wednesday, as well as daily opportunities to say Kaddish at the Daily Minyan. We also encourage you to utilize the Bereavement Committee, which is available to assist you and your family with funeral arrangements, shiva calls, and general support.

**Community Mikvah**
Adas Israel offers the only kosher, community mikvah serving the DC/MD/NoVA area, that welcomes visits from any Jewish person for any reason. The mikvah is a safe place where a Jewish person can experience an embodied spirituality and mark transitional moments. By taking time to connect to the body, the Jewish people, and the earth’s natural water cycles, a person can become rooted in the present moment, even at a time of profound change. [www.adasisrael.org/mikvah](http://www.adasisrael.org/mikvah)

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**Babies**
Mazel Tov! Celebrate your baby naming or brit milah (circumcision) at Adas Israel.

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah**
The attainment of this important Jewish milestone welcomes our youth into the community and prepares them to take their place as participating members of the Jewish People. Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah integrates participants into the religious life of the congregation through individualized instruction from our clergy building upon the many years of learning in our Religious School or local Jewish Day Schools.

**Weddings**
The Hebrew word for a marriage is Kiddushin, from the same root as kadosh, meaning “holy.” We can help you plan your simcha both logistically and spiritually. From participating in our Seven Blessings Class, having an aufruf on Shabbat morning to having one of our clergy perform your marriage ceremony, we look forward to the opportunity of sharing in your Simcha.
Membership

Adas Israel Congregation is a place for us all to call home and to celebrate the joys of Jewish life together with our families and friends. We very much look forward to meeting you and to answering any questions you may have. Please remember that finances are never a barrier to membership.

Please visit www.adasisrael.org/membership to view the current suggested membership contributions.

Additional membership benefits include:
• High Holy Day tickets for all household members
• Access to the clergy for pastoral counseling and learning
• Tuition discounts for Gan HaYeled PreSchool and Religious School
• Reduce priced tickets to community-wide events (ex. Shabbat dinners, Community Seder, etc.)
• Discounted rates to rent Adas Israel facilities for private events (ex. Wedding reception, B’nai Mitzvah party, etc.)
• The opportunity to serve on a committee to help guide the mission of the synagogue

Contact Membership & Program Manager, Marcy Spiro at marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org or at 202-362-4433, ext 113 to learn more about becoming a member of the Adas Israel community.
Our Building & Worship Spaces

At Adas Israel, the community just completed a historic renovation project for its landmark mid-century building. The transformation of four major worship and gathering spaces was the keystone of Adas Israel’s “Vision of Renewal.” This Vision initiative was designed to strengthen our synagogue’s capacity to meet its membership’s diverse spiritual, intellectual, and social needs and serve the broader Jewish community. These breathtaking new spaces are yours to cherish.
Contacts & Directions

Contacts:
The clergy and staff of Adas Israel are always available to help you, answer questions, and provide direction. You can reach us by calling the main Synagogue number, 202-362-4433. A complete listing of e-mail addresses and phone extensions can be found on the Adas Israel website.

Directions:
Adas Israel Congregation is located at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Porter Street in Northwest Washington, DC. Detailed directions can be found on our website. There is a parking lot located behind the building.

The congregation is conveniently located 1 block north of the Cleveland Park Metro Station, which is on the Red Line. Exit on the east side of Connecticut Avenue.
The Clergy

From left to right: Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Cantor Arianne Brown, Rabbi Charles Feinberg