Rabbi Daniel Addresses World Conclave of Religious Leaders on Climate at Vatican

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz addresses religious leaders from a multitude of countries and faiths on the need for action on global warming.

Rabbi Daniel was one of two Jewish clerics, among the 40 religious leaders, and 10 scientists, who drafted and signed the declaration which will be presented to the United Nations’ Climate Change Conference in Scotland this month.

Pope Francis, who addressed the clergy and ten scientists, who drafted the two-page declaration, briefly spoke to Rabbi Swartz, thanking him for his efforts on the document.

Rabbi said the pontiff was very engaged in the issue, and he declined to leave this meeting early to keep a previously-scheduled appointment.

Vatican News Service said the Pope said about global warming, “The time has come to change direction. Let us not rob younger generations of their hope in a better future.”

November Services Scheduled

Over the High Holy Days, we asked, and you spoke up! Almost everyone requested that services be moved up earlier than 8 p.m, though people were divided on 6 vs. 7. So we’re going to generally be alternating, with the 1st, 3rd and, when applicable, 5th Friday being at 6 and the 2nd and 4th being at 7.

Our Informal service will be moving from the 3rd Friday of each month to the 2nd. That’s the plan — but sometimes things don’t go according to plan. So in November, the 5th will be at 6 and the 12th will be at 7, but the 19th, because it is the Lackawanna Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, will be at 7. (See article on page 4)

Because of Thanksgiving, there is no service on the 25th. All services will be in person and online. Masks will not be required on the 5th and the 12th, but because we are expecting a larger crowd on the 19th, we will ask people to be masked for that service. If you prefer to attend online, the Zoom link is

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89442525110?pwd=TTU0a0x1RjhoSnNPYXp4S2R4UG9QT09
Or from the Zoom app enter Meeting ID: 894 4252 5110 and Passcode: Hesed
To view from YouTube on the Temple Hesed channel go to:
https://www.youtube.com/UCwWXduqKzeD-We6t6bDSNLT
Donations to Temple Hesed

ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND
In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Myer Alperin
Jim and Patty Alperin

BUILDING FUND
In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Grandfather, Bernhardt Lehman
Paula Wasser

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Joseph Needle
Vivian Needle

In Memory of Abby Smith’s Mother, Anita Yarmis
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Michael Mitchell
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Manny Gelb
Natalie Gelb

MARK HAHN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND
In Loving Memory of Charlotte Milliken
Larry Milliken

LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND
In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Rose Bud Leventhal
Lindsay Leventhal

November Interfaith Chanting Circle: Giving Thanks for the Earth

Thanksgiving is modeled in part on the Jewish festival of Sukkot. But unlike Sukkot, whose connection with the cycles of the seasons and the rain are obvious, we sometimes forget on Thanksgiving to give thanks to the Earth itself, the source of the bounty we are sharing.

Gratitude is a key part of the spiritual practice Rabbi Daniel teaches at the Chanting Circle, so this November, we’ll focus some of that gratitude on the Earth and all we receive from it, as well as looking at what the Earth needs from us.

As always, everyone is welcome and no prior chanting experience is necessary. We’ll be gathering for three Circles in November — on the 6th for one hour, both in-person and online, and also on the 13th and the 20th, for about 30 minutes, only online.

All of these will start at 11:30. To join online, just click: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83enRSQXFMY21Udz09
Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 835 7003 0002 and Passcode: Gratitude
A Rainbow of Reasons for Interfaith Efforts

Especially in light of my recent trip to the Vatican, I want to take some time this month to go through why I engage in interfaith efforts. You might say there are a whole rainbow of reasons, and that each part of that spectrum calls for different sorts of interfaith programming. I’ll start with the most personal level and proceed outward to the global.

Within our Congregation: Many families in our congregation, including some of the most active ones, include both Jews and non-Jews in their immediate or extended family. To live up to our name, Temple Hesed, we must strive to welcome ALL members of ALL our families, Jewish or not. While respecting our tradition, we need to creatively engage non-Jewish members and make sure they know that they are valued and welcomed. We do this in part by finding appropriate avenues of participation in all aspects of Temple life, including High Holy Day services and bat mitzvahs. Everyone is welcome to attend adult and family education programs. And if someone is interested in finding out more about Judaism, for whatever reason — to better understand the rest of their family, to participate more fully in raising their children, because they are contemplating conversion, or simple curiosity — I try to help them find a way to learn. This is part of how our current “Intro to Judaism” class began.

Within Northeastern PA: When we move from an internal view to looking at NEPA more broadly, additional reasons for interfaith efforts emerge. Some are similar: to engage people who are curious about Judaism (which is how we developed such a large interfaith following for our Purimspies!), and to help those contemplating conversion first figure out if this is the right path for them, and then, if they think it is, to help them on that path. But I also engage in civic issues to make sure that Jewish concerns are addressed. For example, I’ve meet with school officials about calendar issues, helping them to avoid scheduling major events on the High Holy Days. A lesson from Rabbi David Saperstein provides another reason. He always taught, if you want friends, be a friend. That is, if you want people outside the Jewish community to support us when we need support, make sure to be there for them. When local civic and religious leaders came out with strong statements of support following the murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue, it was in part because I have developed relationships with them over the course of many years, including support issues of special concern to them. More broadly, the more people see, interact with, and understand us, the better able we are to prevent bigotry and to deal with it should it arise. So I encourage Temple Hesed members to join in with me at a variety of interfaith events around town. This is part of why I’m developing an interfaith course on the 10 Commandments with Mother Rebecca Barnes of St. Lukes, as discussed in this Messenger. And of course, we have a lot to learn from others as well!

All of these are important reasons to become involved with local interfaith efforts. But for me personally, two other reasons stand out as being especially meaningful. The first of these is it helps me and others grow in our understanding of all we share. Our weekly interfaith chanting circle, as far as I know the only one of its kind anywhere, is a beautiful example of this. At any given gathering, we have three to six different faith traditions represented, not to mention all the varieties of belief within any given tradition. And yet, as we share our response to a particular teaching, or just what’s going on with us at that moment, we are simply human beings helping each other, sharing a commitment to exploring the different ways we can believe as well as the many paths we take together.

One of those paths is Tikkan Olam, the repair of our world. Whether it’s collecting food for local pantries, cleaning up the Lackawanna River, providing backpacks to school children, fighting bigotry or helping combat illiteracy, I can’t think of a single social action project we’ve undertaken or could undertake that isn’t stronger and more effective when we do it with others outside of Temple Hesed. The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service and Thanksgiving meals that we have helped with for decades is perhaps the largest such effort, not just feeding stomachs but comforting souls.

Nationally and Internationally: It should be obvious, but in our very divided world, it deserves being made completely clear — when we read on Yom Kippur how we are to not just to love our neighbors but also the stranger, that means everyone everywhere. In this time of climate change, I believe it also means other species — all the lives who share this common home, the Earth, with us. For a mission as large as that, we need all the allies we can get. And I have to say, a lot more people hear what we have to say when we work with allies like the Pope! So, for reasons ranging from our own Temple Hesed families to the fate of the planet itself, we can’t just stay within the confines of Judaism or the four walls of our synagogue.

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz
Lackawanna Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration: Giving Thanks for the Earth

Once again, Temple Hesed has been asked by the Scranton Area Ministerium and the Friends of the Poor to host the annual Lackawanna Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration. This year, our theme (matching that of the November Chanting Circle) is: “Giving Thanks for the Earth, our Common Home.”

We’ll be joined by leaders from diverse faith groups, including representatives from the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we won’t be able to have a fabulous oneg afterward, but it’s still a joyous occasion, with great, lively music.

Please note: even though this is the 3rd Friday, the service will start at 7 at the request of the Friends of the Poor. You can attend in person or online, but we’ll be asking those attending in person to be masked, due to the larger numbers we’re expecting.

See the November Service Schedule on Page 1 for the Zoom and YouTube links.
**Yahrzeit**

**October 31 – November 6**
25 Cheshvan – 2 Kislev
Service November 5


**November 7 – 13**
3 – 9 Kislev
Service November 12


**November 14 – 20**
10 – 16 Kislev
Service November 19


**November 21 – 27**
17 – 23 Kislev
Service December 3


**November 28 – December 4**
24 – 30 Kislev
Service December 3


---

**Get Wells**

Michael Cornfield
Lynne Fragin
Kenny Ganz
Larry Golden
Phil Knobel
Maggie LoRusso
Rich Mates
Chelsea Minkoff
Harriet Noble
Charlene Ostro
Ceil Rydzewski
Joel Vener
### Holiday Calendar

**Rosh HaShanah** — Sept. 6-8

**Yom Kippur** — Sept. 15-16

**Sukkot** — Sept. 20-27

**Sh’mini Atzeret**

**Simchat Torah** — Sept. 27-28

**Hanukkah** — Nov. 28

**Tu B’Shevat** — Jan. 16-17

**Purim** — Mar. 16-17

**Passover** — Apr. 15-22

**Yom HaShoah** — Apr. 27-28

**Yom HaZikaron** — May 3-4

**Yom HaAtzmaut** — May 4-5

**Lag BaOmer** — Apr. 18-19

**Shavuot** — June 4-5

**Tishah B’Av** — Aug. 6-7

**Selichot Service** — Sept. 17

---

### Torah Portions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Civil date</th>
<th>Hebrew date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toldot</td>
<td>Nov. 6, 2021</td>
<td>2 Kislev.5782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vayetze</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 2021</td>
<td>9 Kislev.5782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vayishlach</td>
<td>Nov. 20, 2021</td>
<td>16 Kislev.5782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vayeshev</td>
<td>Nov. 27, 2021</td>
<td>23 Kislev.5782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More information available from URJ.org

---

*“If you dig a pit for someone else, you fall in it yourself.”*

From 1001 Yiddish Proverbs—By Fred Kogos
October 21, 2021 - In response to a statement from Sunrise Movement, Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement:

"The failure of the Sunrise movement to speak clearly in condemnation of the offensive statement this week from their Sunrise DC hub that sought to erase the presence of the RAC, NCJW, and JCPA from the fight for voting rights, is shameful. The statement and tepid response seem to be an indication that they consider the Jewish community expendable in the fight for social justice and comes perilously close to fomenting antisemitism.

Our commitment to voting rights for all Americans is not contingent on who will stand with us. It is deeply rooted in our Jewish faith, and we refuse to let the actions of one organization distract us from our mission to protect access to the ballot for everyone.

Let's be clear: we do not consider our work on voting rights to be in conflict with our progressive Zionist principles, nor do we consider these beliefs to be an impediment to our tireless work fighting for the human rights of Palestinians and a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

If you would like to support Rabbi Daniel’s work with COEJL

After his meeting with Pope Francis and other global religious leaders, a number of Temple Hesed members have inquired how they can support Rabbi Daniel’s work with the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL). In the past, Rabbi Daniel has never solicited for donations to COEJL from our Temple Hesed family, not wanting anyone to feel undue pressure or blur lines between his jobs.

In this unique circumstance, however, the Temple Hesed Board felt that it would be appropriate to put a one-time article in the Messenger.

Rabbi Daniel is busily trying to raise funds to help meet the dramatic increase in requests for COEJL’s participation and programming, as well as the unique opportunities of this moment, ranging from the support of interfaith leaders to the possibility of actual progress addressing important environmental issues ranging from lead pipes in schools to climate change. Funds raised would go directly to the hiring of an intern or part-time assistant, who could help out with social media, responding to press and speaking inquiries, and continuing to build interfaith partnerships to help protect people and the planet. If you would like to make a donation, you can so either online at [http://www.coejl.org/donate.html](http://www.coejl.org/donate.html) or by sending a check to the Temple office made out to the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE), COEJL’s fiscal sponsor.

All contributions are tax deductible.
Winter Adult Education: A New (and Interfaith!) Look at the 10 Commandments

Starting in January, Rabbi Daniel will be offering a unique adult educational opportunity — a chance for us to study together with another Scranton area congregation, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

He is currently working on the details of the class with the Reverend Rebecca Barnes, Priest-in-charge of St. Luke’s, including discussions about possibly bringing one or two additional congregations into the mix. Hopefully, the classes will be held on Zoom as well, as in person.

If this sounds interesting to you, please email Rabbi Daniel at rabbidaniel@comcast.net or call the Temple office at 570-344-7201, so we can make sure to set times for the class that will work for all interested.

TEMPLE HESED
1 Knox Road
Scranton, PA 18505
Office: 570-344-7201
Fax: 570-344-4514
Website: http://www.templehesed.org

Temple Hesed

On the Web at: templehesed.org

SPIRITUAL LEADER

Rabbi Daniel J Swartz
570-877-3454 (cell)
570-344-7201 (office)
rabbidaniel@comcast.net (email)

OFFICERS

Esther Adelman, Steven Seitchik and Cheryl Friedman — Co-Presidents; Jeffrey Leventhal — Treasurer; Jennifer Novak — Secretary; Joan Davis — Assistant Secretary

Board Members: Kenneth Ganz, Robert Hersh, Natalie Gelb, Paula Kane, Carol Leventhal, Judith Golden, Donna Kostiak, Loren Selznick, Josh Levine

STAFF

Marlene Gianzanti—Temple Administrator (marlenecmg1@comcast.net)
Edward Snitko—Director of Music
Jennifer Rosen Novak—Director of Social Media
Rich Mates—Editor, Messenger (hesednews@gmail.com)
Jeff Heilbrunn—Webmaster

ABOUT TEMPLE HESED:

Temple Hesed, a Reform Synagogue founded Aug. 20, 1860, is Scranton’s first and oldest Jewish congregation. It is one of the earliest congregations to join the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union for Reform Judaism. It has been a member since Dec. 12, 1874.

The synagogue serves the needs of individuals and families in Lackawanna County and surrounding areas. Situated on Knox Road, off Lake Scranton Road in the East Mountain section of Scranton, the current building opened in 1973. Temple Hesed operates a cemetery on West Warren Street in Dunmore.

The office is open Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rabbi Swartz is happy to set appointments at any convenient time. Contact him to set a time. The rabbi also has "drop-in" hours every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Rabbi holds these times open for visits or calls for which an appointment was not or could not be made.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, appointments should be made for all meetings with the rabbi. Bring a face mask.

The Temple Hesed Cemetery is open for visitation six days a week. Visitation hours are: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. till dusk and it is closed for Shabbat on Saturday.

For more information, call the office.