

Temple Micah

Temple Micah is a vibrant, innovative and -- truth be told -- fun Reform Jewish congregation that is recreating the American Jewish experience from its home in the heart of Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1963, Micah has three rabbis and approximately 600 families. Our senior rabbi, Daniel G. Zemel, has led us since 1983, overseeing the transformation and exponential growth of the congregation. Rabbi Zemel is nationally recognized as a leader in the quest to advance the human project and to pioneer a meaningful American Judaism for the 21st century. He guides the staff with a wry sense of humor, a passion for collaboration, and a zeal to make Temple Micah thrive and improve every single day.

Life at Temple Micah is an adventure. We do not stand still. We are creating a synagogue that meets the evolving needs of modern Jewish life. That is why, to us, Reform is a verb.

Temple Micah is a learning, caring, and doing congregation. We are at once traditional and creative, combining time-honored ritual with groundbreaking approaches to Jewish life. We put a premium on innovation and experimentation, understanding that not all experiments are successful. We strive to be relentlessly relevant.

Our worship is dynamic and spiritual, robust and inspirational, musical and participatory. Our services combine tradition with a contemporary Jewish sound, evoking a feeling of vitality and deep meaning. Our worship music artist integrates music into everything we do.

Jewish education starts early at Temple Micah and continues throughout life. We tore up the traditional Hebrew school playbook and created Machon Micah, The Micah Institute for Jewish Learning, an exciting, new approach to education for children and adults.

We reach out to young adults through our Storefront Project, which moves the Jewish conversation from within the temple walls to public destinations around town.

The pursuit of social justice is fundamental to us. We founded and operate a home for women who are recovering from substance abuse. On the High Holy Days, we collect new underwear for people who are unhoused. We have sponsored a family of Afghan refugees, and we work to help asylum seekers from South and Central America. Supporting each other during crises also is central to what we do; each member of our community matters.

Temple Micah is inclusive. We are young, old, queer, straight, married, and single. We include members of various races, ethnicities, and abilities. We welcome members who are firmly rooted Jewishly, new seekers, and non-Jews. We seek to be unpretentious, open-minded, and non-dogmatic. Our building contains no donor plaques.

Finally, we like to have fun. We take our Judaism seriously, but not ourselves. Laughter is an important element in all we do, from worship to learning to the inner workings of our office.

Temple Micah is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.