

To our beloved Adas family,

May 2020

Who could've imagined a few short months ago the world we'd be living in today?

It's been a time of heartbreak, loneliness, struggle, and great fear of the unknown.

It's also been a time of heroism, generosity, and ingenuity, and a daily testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

Nowhere has this been more apparent than in the daily acts of hesed and commitment within our remarkable Adas community. While our building may have been physically closed, Adas has been bustling: adasisrael.org/adasairwaves.



The world we have come to know, and the spirit of this community.

- Hundreds have tuned in weekly for our Shabbat and holiday services, and thousands more have followed on Facebook.
- Hundreds of Hesed volunteers have called every single household in our community, to check in and assess needs.
- Our daily messages from the clergy, live-streamed Shabbat services, Zoom minyanim, online learning, and virtual social gatherings have offered meaningful connection points, inspiration, and routine for thousands in the community each day.
- Our Gan and Religious School have served students and families in new and varied ways, including multiple daily Gan sessions, regularly scheduled Religious School classes, private Hebrew lessons through Zoom, and regular content from teachers.
- The Social Action Committee is providing many home-based ways to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our wider community and is staying connected with our Justice partners in the District and beyond.
- Our clergy has delivered impassioned pastoral care, guidance, and lifecycle support throughout this crisis — walking hand-in-hand with our community members through many meaningful milestones, moments of joy, and moments of sorrow.

Our tradition teaches us: *Hope to God, while simultaneously building with our hands*. Our dedicated clergy, and everyone on the team at Adas, has been working tirelessly to connect and support you, and our team has begun the challenging work of assessing how and when we can begin to reintroduce onsite operations in our building. This process will be a measured, phased approach, and will be guided by local government and public health officials in the region.

Now, our eyes turn to the future...



The Synagogue's Finances and the need for your commitment, now more than ever.

We are proud and grateful to share the enclosed information regarding our upcoming *High Holy Day worship experiences*. In addition, you will find enclosed your latest synagogue statement, which now includes billing items for the 2020/21 Fiscal Year. Please note, suggested membership commitments have not increased this year (0% change).

Creating a proposed operating budget for next year has been *challenging*. In this time of radical uncertainty and economic hardship, we project we will continue to experience substantial revenue reductions into the fall and winter. We are working tirelessly to ensure that our 170 employees and teachers can continue to serve you in the way you deserve. There is no Adas without them.

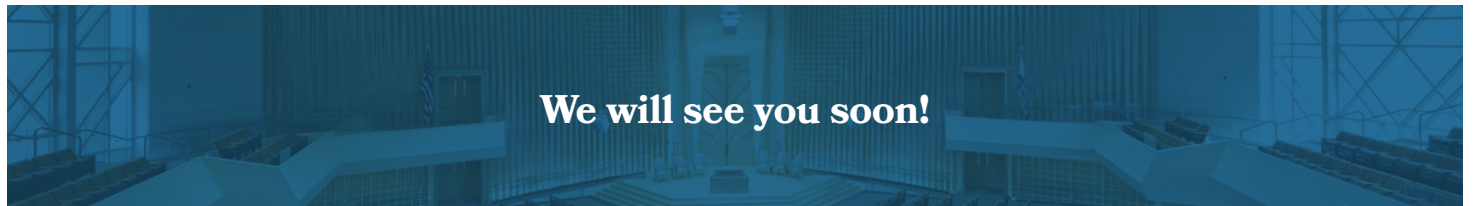


To help make this a reality, we have worked diligently to eliminate all non-essential expenses across the board. Some of these decisions have been painful, but were made with the utmost of care to ensure Adas can continue to weather this crisis and fulfill its mission, now and always.

Therefore, we ask that you do everything in your power to expedite any outstanding payments to Adas.

We can accept mailed checks, stock transfers, and online payments at this time. To pay online, please visit adasisrael.org and log in to your account at the top-right of your screen, or click directly from the email we will send to you with this information. For technical assistance, please call 202.709.6591 and we will be happy to help.

We recognize that some in our community are experiencing financial hardship. We stand by our commitment that finances should never be a barrier to full participation at Adas. Should you find yourself in such a hardship, you can reach out to our Executive Director, David Polonsky, at any time for a confidential conversation. Thank you for your support and diligence, now more than ever.



We continue to count the abundant blessings in our lives as we move through this moment — this Adas community, and each and every one of you, chief among them. Please continue to stay connected with us at adasisrael.org/adasairwaves.

We look forward to seeing you online and in our building — our home away from home — before too long.

Yours always,



Laurie Aladjem, Synagogue President
Rabbis Lauren Holtzblatt & Aaron Alexander