

TEFILAT YAMIM

PARSHAT SHELACH

21 Sivan 5786 - 6 June 2026



Dear Community Family,

As I write this final weekly letter to you, my heart is full. Full of gratitude, full of admiration, and full of something I can only describe as awe at

what you are doing and who you are.

This week's parasha offers us a moment that is at once painful and deeply

illuminating. After Hashem declares that the Jewish people will remain in the desert for forty years, a group among them suddenly has a change of heart.

"We are ready," they declare. "We will go up to the Land that Hashem promised us." They had doubted. Now they believed again. What changed?

The Rebbe points out something profound here. No new miracle was performed. Moshe did not show them anything they hadn't seen before. What happened was simpler and deeper than that. When Hashem rebuked them and the weight of the consequences became real, something inside them woke up. Their faith had never actually left. It had only been buried, temporarily covered over by fear and by an overblown sense of the obstacles in front of them. The

rebuke didn't create their faith. It uncovered it.

Because every Jew, in the deepest place within them, already believes. The doubt is never the whole story. The doubt is only the surface.

A young man moved to Eretz Yisrael in his twenties, full of idealism, full of energy. Within two years, the challenges had worn him down. The bureaucracy, the loneliness, the gap between the dream and the daily reality. He sat down one evening and wrote a letter to his father back in the States, essentially saying: I don't think I can do this anymore.

His father wrote back one line.

"You didn't move to Eretz Yisrael because it was easy. You moved because it was true."

The young man read that line, folded the letter, and never seriously considered leaving again. Not because the challenges disappeared. But because the truth underneath his decision had been reawakened. It had always been there. He just needed something to cut through the noise and remind him.

That is what you are doing every single day.

You are English speakers who have chosen to build your lives in Eretz Yisrael, to

raise your families here, to put down roots in the land where every Jew ultimately belongs. That is not a small thing. That is not an ordinary life decision. You are living the dream that Jews across two thousand years of exile whispered at the end of every Seder, every Yom Kippur, every prayer. Next year in Jerusalem. And you said: not next year. Now.

There will be hard days. There are bureaucratic walls that seem immovable. There are moments of cultural friction, of exhaustion, of sirens, wondering whether you made the right call.

Those moments are real, and I would never minimize them. But I want you to hear this clearly: those doubts are not the truth of who you are. They are the surface. Underneath them is something unshakeable, something you brought with you the day you landed, something that no difficult morning at the misrad hapnim can touch.

Your faith in what you are building here is real. Your commitment to this land and our people is real. And the fact that you have chosen not just to visit but to belong, not just to admire from a distance but to show

up every day and build, is one of the most beautiful expressions of Jewish identity I have ever witnessed.

It has been the greatest privilege of my life to walk alongside you, to learn from you, to celebrate with you and to sit with you in the harder moments too. You have been my community, my teachers, and my friends.

Keep going. The land is waiting for you and you are exactly where you belong.

With all my love and with a full heart,

Rav Mendel Wuensch

Kiddush Sponsors

Community-sponsored Kiddush in honor of Rav Mendel and Itty, thanking them as they prepare for their next chapter.

Weekday Minyan Schedule

7:30 AM Shachrit @ Beit Chabad Ir Yamim

7:40 PM Mincha/Maariv @ Be Pharmacy On Piano

Shabbat Schedule

Friday

7:22 PM Candle Lighting

7:00 PM Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat - Dvar Torah by Rav Mendel Wuensch

Shabbat Day

8:30 AM Shachrit - Dvar Torah by Rav Mendel Wuensch

9:45-10:30 AM Kid's Program

10:30 AM Kiddush

6:00 PM Rabbi David Rue Shiur

7:25 PM Mincha Followed By Seudat Shlishit "Raava D'Ravin" with Rav Mendel Wuensch

8:22 PM Arvit

8:27 PM Shabbat Ends

Contact Info

Rav Mendel Wuensch - 053-8809063

Rebbetzin Itty Wuensch - 053-2551747

Rami Goldsmith - 054-6742284

Jonathan Gellis - 053-8236143

Location: Chaim Guri School, Corner of Beni Berman & Uzi Hitman Streets,
Entrance On Uzi Hitman Street