

**Grace Baptist Church
710 Club Drive Statesville NC**

**October 5, 2016
For More Information:
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Davis Lectures Series Features Renowned Rabbi Judith Schindler

Rabbi Judith Schindler, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte, is the guest lecturer for the 2016 Davis Lectures Series, scheduled for Oct. 23-24 at Grace Baptist Church in Statesville.

Her research on recharging congregations through civic engagement and moving the religious community from volunteerism to advocacy will be the foundation for Sunday night's topic: *"The Five Steps to Loving Your Neighbor: Moving Churches from Volunteerism to Advocacy"*. Because the traditional Jewish festival of Simchat Torah falls on Oct. 24, this celebration will be the focus of Monday's lecture. Rabbi Schindler will speak on the beauty of Torah, both literally and intellectually, exploring the many meanings of the word Torah and how the top teachings of this text can inspire our lives. Monday's lecture is entitled *"Simchat Torah - A Celebration of Torah"*.

The two-night series is a combination study, lecture and dialogue from 7-8:30 p.m. In addition to the two lectures, Rabbi Schindler will speak at the 11 a.m. service on Oct. 23, entitled *"Moral Courage"*. The public is invited to attend the lectures and service. There is no charge.

Rabbi Schindler was named Rabbi Emerita of Temple Beth El in Charlotte, after serving as Senior Rabbi from 2003-2016 and as Associate Rabbi from 1998-2003. Prior to coming to Charlotte, she was an Associate Rabbi at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Tufts University in 1988 (magna cum laude), her Master's from the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 1993, and her rabbinic ordination at the Hebrew Union College in New York in 1995.

She serves on the Executive Committee of the Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice, is co-chair of the Clergy Council of MeckMin (Charlotte's interfaith organization), is co-chair of the Rabbinic Council of the Association of Reform Zionists of America and is a Trustee of the Reform Pension Board. She is past Co-Chair of the Women's Rabbinic Network and served on the Board of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing.

On behalf of Temple Beth El, Rabbi Schindler envisioned and led the creation of four social justice documentaries being utilized across the country. "Souls of Our Students: Appreciating Differences" and "Souls of our Students: A Transgender Focus" address diversity in schools. "Souls of Our Teachers" addresses urban education and "Souls of our Neighbors" explores the value of creating affordable housing. Three of the documentaries earned Telly Awards. Rabbi Schindler has contributed chapters and articles to more than ten books and is currently researching and co-authoring a book entitled *Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement Helps Synagogues, Jews and America* (expected for publication in 2018 by CCAR Press).

Among the many awards she has received, Rabbi Schindler was named Charlotte Woman of the Year in 2011. She received the 2008 Humanitarian Award from the Charlotte Coalition for Social Justice, the 2008

Mecklenburg Ministries Interfaith Clergy Award and was selected as one of Charlotte's USA 20: Celebrating Dynamic Women in 2010.

Rabbi Schindler is married to Chip Wallach, who works for Bank of America. They have two sons, Maxwell and Alec. She is the daughter of the late Rabbi Alexander Schindler who was president of the Union for Reform Judaism from 1973-1995.

Grace Baptist Church started the lectures series in 2002 to offer the community a concentrated study of scripture that includes current topics, serious inquiry and honest dialogue. Dr. Richard T. Davis, a retired minister and chaplain from Durham, led the first series. In honor of his efforts and commitment to the endeavor, the congregation named the series for him and his wife - the Richard and Barbara Davis Lectures Series.

Grace Baptist, located at 719 Club Drive, organized in 1971 as an alternative Southern Baptist congregation. The church withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention in 1983 and is now aligned with the Alliance of Baptists and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. For more information, email gracestatesville@gmail.com or go to www.gracestatesville.org.