



August 23, 2020

Dear TEMV members and friends:

Am I the only one? When I step outside, even in the midst of the August heat, I think I can smell the beginning of autumn upon us. I can sense the leaves getting ready to change into brilliant colors, and petals beginning to fall off flowering blooms. When this happens, I know that our High Holy Days are not that far away. I always love the change from summer to fall, and in the midst of these difficult days, it feels more important than ever to share our joys and sorrows, to celebrate together, and to feel part of the fabric of our supportive and sacred community.

The TEMV Board is saddened that it is not yet safe for us to gather in person in an enclosed, indoor space, but together with Rabbi Sparr, we are planning to offer deeply meaningful, spiritual, and interactive worship experiences throughout these coming High Holy Days using the now familiar to so many, remote tool, Zoom. To ensure a safe, remote experience for all, everyone participating in our HHD services and programs will be asked to pre-register.

We always value being transparent with our congregation, and this year it is more important than ever. **Dues are our main source of income, and our membership has been steadily going down. This fiscal year, membership pledges are expected to only cover about 50% of our operating budget.** In light of our financial situation and in order to move towards a sustainable, balanced budget, rather than a traditional HHD Appeal, we are requesting optional donations as part of the high holidays registration process. When you pre-register, you will see suggested donation amounts.

Please know that you will still be able to register for services, even if you are not able to make a donation. If you can donate, we want you to donate within your means, even if that means choosing an amount outside of the suggested donation range. Above all, **we will not turn anyone away for lack of funds.** When deciding on suggested donation amounts, we kept in mind that we will not be doing a separate high holiday appeal this year. So, if you can donate, please give as much as you are able.

Right now, it is a challenge for any small congregation to remain sustainable. But I truly believe that with all of us coming together, as we have in so many other ways, we can help ensure that TEMV remains viable for many generations to come. As I have asked in years past, please give until it feels good . . . TEMV needs to not only survive, but to thrive, with all the promise and potential that our congregation holds. Our community finds strength from each other and we are joined together in this holy mission, to keep TEMV's unique and treasured community marching strong into the future.

May you be inscribed for a good and sweet year. I look forward to shepherding in 5781, together.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu,
Robin Frisch, President, TEMV Board of Trustees