



Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement" and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. For transgressions against people we ask their forgiveness. We are commanded to turn to those whom we have wronged, asking for forgiveness, acknowledging our shortcomings and the pain we might have caused. Then we must be willing to forgive others for their transgressions, and to let go of certain offenses and the feelings of resentment they provoked in us. It is only after we do this that we can then ask God to forgive our sins. In reciting the special Yom Kippur prayers, we atone for transgressions against God and ask for forgiveness from God. "And for all these, God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, and grant us atonement." The holiday is a time when families should be at peace, and it gives us a yearly opportunity to put aside past hurts and create a new beginning to improve our lives and our communities by becoming a little more caring with each passing year. On this journey we are both seekers and givers of pardon. It is also important to celebrate our life's blessings, reflecting on all for which we are thankful for; all the good that we have done for others and all the good others have done for us during the past year. These moments of celebration are equally important to acknowledge at this season.



Monmouth Reform Temple has a highly spiritual evening Kol Nidre Service. The choir sings moving selections and a cellist provides emotive music in a dimly lit sanctuary to create a holy ambience. This is followed by a morning Yom Kippur service.