

I absolutely love the fall weather. I love the cooler days and chilly nights. I adore the fall colors.

Last year I went to Vermont to photograph the fall colors and after I did that, I traveled around our local area. The best picture I took last fall was of a pond on Mt. Bethel Road in Mansfield. I believe I was on either my way to temple or coming home, but I pass this pond every time I go, and I caught it at a perfect moment. I look for these moments in my life. I look for the beauty in our world. I look for the goodness in people. I especially love the wonderful congregation I have had the pleasure to lead for 17 of the last 21 years. I see the goodness in all of you.

The Rabbis have told us to treat each other as if the person next to you could be the Messiah. They may not be the Messiah, but to show them love, kindness and respect will make a huge difference in your life. I know it has made that difference in my life. We all know people who need reaching out to and may feel a little disconnected from us. I plan to make a resolution this year to make sure I keep in touch with as many of you as I can. To make sure that you know that the congregation is here and willing to help you if you need it. Also, please remember that it is not a sign of weakness to ask for a little help. Giving people the opportunity to assist you is actually performing as much of a mitzvah as helping someone out. Remember that, and if you need a little help or someone to talk to, Hineni, Here I am.

I look forward to seeing you at the High Holidays and I hope as many of you as are able will attend in person. And for those of you who can not attend in person, I hope to see you in ZOOM land.

L'Shanah Tovah
With much love to all,
Howie