

Dear New Friends,

I am the rabbi coming to your synagogue. I am grateful that I am alive. In Modeh Ani it says “I am thankful to You, G-d who lives forever, for returning my soul to me with care.” I also care about G-d. In the Ahava Rabah on page 34 of the siddur it says, “And you shall love Adonai, your G-d with all your soul and with all your might. I am also a musician. This reminds me of when the instruments were played in the Torah, when the Israelites got across the sea.

An idea I have is to take people outside of the “temple walls” and have a time where the whole congregation would spend time getting to know each other. There could be icebreaker questions, that might connect to prayers or the Torah. The whole community would then feel they had a connection or have a community where people know each other. I am grateful to have a new congregation and excited to have a new start.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Emily Bernstein