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Asking forgiveness shouldn't be done via Facebook, rabbi says

BY NIRAJ WARIKOO
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Jewish high holidays -- which end today on Yom Kippur -- are a time when many are called upon to repent and seek forgiveness from others.

But in a world where the [Internet](#) has increasingly become a way to communicate, some are replacing one-on-one apologies with Facebook and Twitter updates during the Jewish holy days.

That concerns Rabbi Jason Miller of Congregation T'chayah in Oak Park, who sees some using the impersonal nature of the Web as a way to avoid real interaction.



Rabbi Jason Miller, 33, demonstrates a shofar at Congregation T'chayah in Oak Park on Friday. The ram's horn is to be blown today at the conclusion of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. (PATRICIA BECK/Detroit Free Press)

He plans to talk about the issue today to his congregation during services on what is known as the Day of Atonement.

"We've lost the personal touch," said Miller, who also is the rabbi of Tamarack Camps in Michigan. "There should be an effort, a little challenge to go up to another person and seek forgiveness, to admit our wrongdoing."

Miller often uses social media himself and blogs at blog.rabbijason.com, but cautions against overdoing it.

He notes one [Facebook](#) update he got Friday morning from a person who wrote a generic note to several people at once, saying: "Whatever I said, I didn't really mean it. Please forgive me. It won't happen again."

The one-size-fits-all confession misses the mark in keeping with the spirit of repentance, Miller said.

Roslyn Schindler, 64, a member of the congregation, agreed, saying, "I think the spirit of it is for two people to engage in dialogue, face-to-face or on the [phone](#) ... to repair a relationship."

Contact NIRAJ WARIKOO: 313-223-4792 or wariikoo@freepress.com

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