



February 2010

Dear Friends,,

Life in 21st century America is busy. Many people complain of hectic schedules, unending demands, and never-ending “to do lists”. The stressful spirit of going 24/7 has become the norm for too many, even starting from a young age.

In the Judeo-Christian tradition that helped form our Western and American society, the idea of a “Sabbath,” or day of rest, has always played a significant role that positively affected our lifestyles. Our faith traditions reminded us that one day a week was supposed to be different from the others. Specifically, Sunday was the traditional day that people reserved for a time of rest and reprieve from a busy week, with Christian worship primarily taking place on this morning. Over the past few decades, however, more and more activities have crept into the Sunday morning schedule – from school programs to school and town sporting events and leagues – turning an opportunity for peace and rest into just another busy and stressful day like every other.

This scheduling of events has forced our young people into the sometimes difficult dilemma of choosing between playing on a sports team or going to Church. Parents, also, must deal with the predicament of transporting their children to and supporting them at these events, or resting and/or attending their churches for worship. This quandary is quite pervasive.

Sadly, a pattern of public insensitivity to the religious traditions of our churches has emerged, while at the same time many community leaders are talking about the importance of supporting “family values” by providing moral education of youth through family and religious life.

For the health and well-being of our society, as well as taking into consideration the many people who desire to worship in our Churches on Sunday mornings, we would like to appeal to all public officials, leaders of public and private sporting leagues and events, and residents in general, to keep at least Sunday mornings free from various activities. Leagues, games and practices can all begin after 1:00 p.m.

This simple gesture would offer all of our people a time of community rest, as well as show a certain solidarity with the countless people who hold Sunday mornings as their primary time of worship.

Sincerely,

Pastor Sunita Kowalick

Bainbridge Community UCC

St. Susan Javorek, SMD

Church of the Holy Angels

Fr. David J. Walknerak

St. Joan of Arc Church

Rev. D. Lynn Sander

United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls

W. Howard P. Dempsey, Jr.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Deborah Austin

Union Bethel AME Church

Liter Ann Marie Kenwick, SMD

St. Joan of Arc Church

Fr. Dr. Schlegel

Church of the Holy Angels

Pastor Charles Brown

Auburn Community Church

Rev. John Wahl

Valley Presbyterian Church