



The Kenilworth Union Church

211 Kenilworth Avenue Kenilworth, Illinois 60043 (847)-251-4272
www.kuc.org

Dr. Andrew Chaney
Senior Minister

Dr. Gilbert W. Bowen
Minister Emeritus

Sarah E. Garcia
Associate Minister

Lisa R. Bond
Director of Music

Anne S. Faurot
Director of Children's Ministries

The Service of Worship

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Gospel Sunday

8:00 am Communion Service
9:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services & Sunday School

Preludes Organ Selections

Call to Worship and Announcements

Gospel Introit *Take Me to the Water*.....Rollo Dilworth
Come On and Praise the Lord With Me...Bishop T. Jakes
KUC Youth Choir, Barbara Falk, Piano

DoxologyNo. 592

Responsive Reading (Psalm 150)

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament.

Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

Praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe,

Praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.

Hymn "He Is King of Kings"No. 153

Anthem *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*..Spiritual, Arr. William Dawson
Chancel Choir

Prayer of Affirmation

God of our lives, each new day and this day, we bring ourselves to you for forgiveness, clarity and renewal. Be our guide, we pray, when we are perplexed, our strength when we are weary, and our companion when we are lonely and in need of your assurance. Help us to love you above all things, that we may love one another and ourselves as your beloved children.

Anthem *You're All I Need*.....Hezekiah Walker
Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn "How Great Thou Art "No. 467

Offering of Gifts and Praise
Vernon Clark and The Heirs of Joy

Closing Anthem *King of Glory*.....Joe Pace
Combined Choirs

Benediction

Postlude *Fanfare in D*.....Jacques Lemmens

Tameron Conseur, M. M.
Asst. Dir. of Choirs

John Bryant
Organist

Kelli Harrington, M. M.
Asst. Dir. of Rejoice and
Bell Choirs

*The music is sponsored by Denise, Sarah and Corbett Wilkinson,
celebrating the memory of Paul Wilkinson
and in gratitude for the Kenilworth Union Church community.*

<u>USHERS</u> 8:00 am Phillis Dunbar	<u>USHERS</u> 9:00 am William F. Walsh Rob Faurot G. Reed Eberle, Jr. Gretchen Sipiora Ron Sipiora Craig Zummer	<u>USHERS</u> 10:30 am Reid Wettersten John Abendshien T. Tolbert Chisum Lee E. Curtiss Greg Skirving John Tsarpalas Jack Wentz John Wettersten	<u>BUS ATTENDANT</u> Margaret Ann Fowler
<u>GREETERS</u> Catherine and Ed King Cindy and Tom Lillard			<u>ALTAR GUILD</u> Bob Cannon Bob Emerson

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers this Sunday are given in loving memory of Marguerite Heller and Edward B. DeVry by the Robert J. Balsley family. The lavabo arrangement is given in loving memory of Jack Wolfe by Doris and family.

MILESTONES: The yellow rose on the altar today celebrates the November 16 birth of Thomas Daniel MacLeod, IV, son of Lori (Fowler) and Tommy MacLeod, grandson of Margaret Ann and the late Jon Fowler.

We extend the sympathy of the congregation to the families of Robert Schuldt II and Stuart Schuldt upon the death of their mother, Barbara Schuldt,

on January 24. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Kenilworth Union Church in honor of Stephen Ministers. The white rose on the altar today celebrates her life.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Jesus Welcomes the Children (Lambs -4th)
Let the children come to me; do not stop them for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs. (Matthew 19: 14) Jesus included all of us, regardless of age, race, gender, or station in life. He taught that we should value to child's position of trust and learn from them.

Bible Occupations (5th & 6th)
Today we will study the daily lives of the men and women of Biblical

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(CONTINUED)

times.

ZEST FOR LIFE COOKING SCHOOL: The next adult/child cooking class is on pizza which will be on Friday, March 3, 5-8 pm. To register, please visit kuc.org. Contact jenburch@comcast.net for more information.

WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP: Come join us for an evening of fellowship and networking with other women from KUC on Wednesday, February 8, 7:00-9:00 pm at Little Ricky's in Winnetka. This new group is aimed at women who primarily work outside the home and do not have the flexibility to participate in the KUC programs offered during the day. The group's direction will develop to meet the interests of the attendees. Please contact Jiffy Willson at jennwillson@ifmnet.com for more information.

LIVING WINDOWS AT KUC: On February 12, during the 9 and 10:30 am Sunday services, Kenilworth Union Church's stained glass windows come alive when member volunteers give brief readings portraying historic figures drawn from the images that surround the sanctuary. Nine of the windows are tributes to different Christian faiths, celebrating KUC's nondenominational heritage. For more information visit this link: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/31632532/LivWindows%20InsertB.pdf>.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 22. Join us for a worship service at 7:00 pm in the Schmidt Chapel.

JR. & SR. HIGH SKI AND SNOWBOARD TRIP! 2012 is the 5th anniversary of Deep Freeze! Come join the fun, Feb.17-19. There are a few spots available. Email silvi@kuc.org or visit www.kuc.org for a link to registration.

LEARN TO USE FACEBOOK, SATURDAY, FEB. 18, THE CULBERTSON ROOM. If you want to connect with your family and friends through Facebook, then come to the Culbertson Room on February 18. Join in an hour and a half session at 10 am, 12 pm or 2 pm to receive hands on support setting up and learning to use a facebook account. If interested, email Trevor Rand at trand@comcast.net.

net to sign up.

THE GREATEST TALENT & ART SHOW ON EARTH, Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26, The Kenilworth Club. To sign up to perform your talent or tell a joke, show your art work or be part of the committee, contact Sallie Smith, sly2k@yahoo.com.

SPRING NEW MEMBER CLASSES: New member classes will be held on February 26 and March 4 at the 9:00 am service. A New Member Minister's Hour with Dr. Chaney will be on March 11 at 4:00 pm and new members will be received on March 18 at the 9:00 am service. Please phone the church office at (847) 251-4272 if you would like to attend.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MARCH 11: Join us for an inspiring event at 10:30 am when we formally welcome our confirmands into the KUC church family. Family and friends are invited to stay for a confirmation student-led worship service in the sanctuary at 11:45 am. The celebration will culminate with cake in the Culbertson Room.

SAVE THE DATE! On May 4, 2012 Kenilworth Union Church will host its 13th Annual Outreach Benefit, "Community Ties." The event will take place at Michigan Shores Club at 6:00 pm. Please join us for the kick-off party at Little Ricky's on Thursday, March 1, beginning at 6:30 pm.

Preaching Schedule

Feb. 12-Dr. Chaney
Feb. 19-Dr. Chaney
Feb. 26-Dr. Chaney

Please turn off all electronic devices while attending services. Thank you.

The Care Guild Leader for February is Sally Schneiders. To let us know where help is needed, or to volunteer, please call the Care Guild number at (847) 853-3534 or email careguild@kuc.org.

Dr. Andrew D. Chaney “Resolutions...WILLPOWER”

Philippians 3: 12-14

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3: 12-14

Fitzgerald’s final line of *The Great Gatsby* is one of the most famous in American literature, and serves as a sort of epitaph for both Gatsby and the novel as a whole: “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.” The reason why that line attracted so much attention is the fact that many identify with feeling tethered to the past, swimming upstream, never being able to break free into the future.

Each new year people seize the opportunity to make a fresh start, open new calendars, and set new goals, especially with the old tradition of making New Year’s resolutions. Among the most popular are to lose weight, to exercise more, and be better in school, work, or home. These resolutions are helpful as they propel us forward, but many keep us steeped in the failures of the past. Sometimes the answer is not in focusing on improving a past failure, but reaching toward a future goal. History is vital, especially since it repeats itself, as we were taught in school, but being future oriented is equally important.

One friend told another about a friend who has a terrible memory. “Forgets everything?” “No,” said the first, “Remembers everything!” The Apostle Paul knew there are certain things we need to forget. That is why he wrote “...one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal...” If there was someone who had a past that could have ruined him, Paul was that person. Had he allowed the past to live in his mind, his life would have been imprisoned and confined to despair. But he put away all memory of former things and set his life anew.

Failures of the past tie our lives in knots, but so can successes. It’s fun to re-live past moments of achievement. To some extent, we all like to do that. However, basking in the glow of past successes can make us complacent about the tasks at hand. We cannot rest on past accomplishments. Paul knew that. He knew there were new challenges and new opportunities ahead.

And he summons us to forget what lies behind and to press on into the future. Will Rogers put it well when he said, “Don’t let yesterday use up too much of today!” We need to forget past successes and past hurts.

Let us keep that in mind as we consider resolutions. I love this quote from Mark Twain about this time of the year: “Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving the road to hell with them as usual.”

A recent book agrees with Mark Twain. *Willpower: Rediscovering the Greatest Human Strength* by Roy F. Baumeister and John Tierney, shows that making resolutions is a losing battle: “Don’t make a list of new year’s resolutions. Each January, millions of people drag themselves out of bed full of hope or hangover, resolved to eat less, exercise more, spend less money, work harder at the office, keep the home cleaner, and still miraculously have more time for romantic dinners and long walks on the beach. By February 1st they’re embarrassed to even look at the list. But instead of lamenting their lack of willpower, they should put the blame where it belongs, on the list. A better plan is to make one resolution and stick to it.”

This book shows current research that demonstrates focusing on several resolutions works against itself. The willpower or self control with which we govern life’s choices all comes from a single reservoir. All of them, no matter what decisions we make, whether it is what clothes to wear, what to eat or not eat, or what to do in business, they all deplete the central willpower source in our brains. If the day is filled with decisions, by the end of the day we are less likely to exercise self control or make the best decisions.

A marriage counselor recognized this as he counseled a couple. Each evening they would come home from work and begin arguing about trivial matters. He counseled them to come home earlier. That would seem

like poor advice, giving them more time to argue, but he wanted them to be together before they felt depleted. They “gave at the office” and their home life suffered.

Each of our days are filled with decisions. So how are we to keep our willpower strong? How do we focus our self control? As the Apostle Paul said, we need to focus upon one thing. What is the one thing in your life that you need to focus upon, or need to keep out of your view? A good way to visualize this might be the 17th century classic, *Pilgrim's Progress*. Imagine a pilgrim on the road walking toward the celestial city, watching its golden spires in the distance. There is a small pub at a bend in the road on the way there. There are many pilgrims who could stop in for a drink on the way and leave, but this particular pilgrim was an alcoholic, so even one drink meant certain demise. As the pilgrim gets nearer to the city, the pub also gets nearer, and eventually the pub blocks out the city altogether, and the pilgrim ends up inside and soon on the floor passed out. Let us imagine this pilgrim to be the musician Eric Clapton.

If you read Eric Clapton's autobiography or know anything about this famous musician, you know that his life has been plagued by alcoholism. It took complete control of his life. He wrote in his autobiography, Clapton, “I was absolutely terrified, in complete despair.” One day at Hazelden Clinic he surrenders to the higher power: “I had no notion who I thought I was talking to, I just knew that I had come to the end of my tether, I had nothing left to fight with, then I remembered something about surrender, something I knew I thought I could never do, my pride wouldn't allow it, but I knew that on my own I wasn't going to make it, so I asked for help, and, getting down on my knees, I surrendered.”

Something amazing happened to him that was beyond making a resolution. He gained willpower, and self control, from God. Even when he had to identify the body of his son in New York City, who had fallen 53 stories to his death, Clapton did not seriously consider taking a drink. He was able to walk past that pub on the way to the celestial city the next time it came into view.

Whatever that pub symbolizes in our lives, we can decide in advance that when we encounter it, that particular temptation, that particular obstacle, we will walk right by. This is a strategy that psychologists call

implementation intention, which is a way to reduce the amount of time and effort you spend controlling your thoughts. In the beginning of the day, we visualize this particular challenge and decide in advance not to succumb to it. It sounds as if we are turning ourselves into automatons, and no one wants to lose the spontaneity of life and become more robotic, but in fact it is a strategy that has worked for many who have resolved to change life for the better. Making that decision in advance puts us less at risk than if we must decide in the moment, especially if the decision comes at the end of a stress-filled day of decisions when we are literally weaker and not truly ourselves.

In making the decision in advance, we must surrender as Clapton did and trust that God's power is involved. Returning to the image of the pilgrim, instead of the pilgrim standing in front of the pub, the view of the celestial city blocked, the pilgrim calls on the help of God, and in effect is figuratively “lifted up” to a new perspective that sees the road, the pub, and the celestial city with more of a God perspective. God's power enables us to see the big picture, reminding us of the bigger goal. The pub is only a challenge on that road, not a road block or an ending point. When Eric Clapton surrendered to God, he gained strength that was not his own, because he knew that he could not do it on his own.

This is the power of prayer. We try to catch a vision of what life could be like if we could change ourselves for the better. With God's help, that vision can become a reality. The New Year can bring new hope as we realize that our past failures, and successes are behind us, and we move forward to be more of who God wants us to be. Nobody is bound to the past like that final line of the *Great Gatsby*. We are moving forward with a reservoir of willpower that is strong, as Paul said, focused on one goal, trusting that with God's help on the journey we will steadily move in the right direction into the future.

Monday our nation celebrates the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Someone who had a profound impact upon Dr. King was Howard Thurman who grew up in poverty in Florida and was raised by his grandmother who was a former slave. Thurman's commitment to non-violence had a profound impact on Dr. King. The following poem was a mainstay of Thurman's life and is a fitting challenge for us this new year as we contemplate

living our resolution with courage and strength from God:

*"Give me the courage to live!
Really live – not merely exist.
Live dangerously,-Scorning risk!
Live honestly,-Daring the truth –
Particularly the truth of myself!
Live resiliently – Ever changing, ever
growing, ever adapting.*

*Enduring the pain of change
As though 'twere the travail of birth.
Give me the courage to live,
Give me the strength to be free
And endure the burden of freedom
And the loneliness of those without
chains;*

*Let me not be trapped by success,
Nor by failure, nor pleasure, nor grief,
Nor malice, nor praise, nor remorse!
Give me the courage to go on!
Facing all that waits on the trail –
Going eagerly, joyously on.
And paying my way as I go,
Without anger or fear or regret
Taking what life gives,
Spending myself to the full,
Head high, spirit winged, like a god –
On...on...till the shadows draw close.
Then even when darkness shuts down,
And I go out alone, as I came,
Naked and blind as I came –
Even then, gracious God, hear my
prayer:*

Give me the courage to live." Amen.

Kenilworth Union Church
211 Kenilworth Avenue
Kenilworth, IL 60043-0308
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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 130
GLENVIEW, IL
60025