



A note from the pastor

Sermon from 1/14/24 -- "Stay Focused, Distractions Want Stop Me?"



The recognition and celebration of the King Holiday did not just happen because of someone's desire. Many pushed and strived for the King holiday. The fight to make Martin Luther King Jr.

birthday a holiday took 32 years. The King Center remained focused, and distractions did not stop them. King's birthday was finally approved as a federal holiday in 1983, and they remained focused until all 50 states made it a state government holiday by 2000. Officially, King was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta. But the King holiday is marked every year on the third Monday in January. It wasn't an easy task for holiday supporters, who had to push hard in Congress to get the federal holiday created. More distractions came due to a second battle which took place to get individual states to also recognize the holiday. There was then and still today a need for all to put on the whole armor of God as stated in Ephesians 6:10-18. Today, the King holiday serves multiple purposes: It honors the total legacy of King; focuses on the issue of civil rights; highlights the use of nonviolence to promote change; and calls people into public service. The many different causes that this observance supports should remind mankind that we all must keep our focus. The church must continue to seek the face of God as the Spirit leads us. Our mind and body must be fixed on the will of God and as the challenges of life present themselves as they did for Dr. King we must stay in the fight and spread throughout the world the Good News of Jesus Christ.

First United Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shared this quote from his 1960 address at Spelman College....

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Reflection for 1/16/24

Scripture: Psalm 145