Monitoring the closest stars in K2 field 4 and 5

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We propose to observe 12 closest stars in Kepler 2 field 4 and 5. These stars are F8 □ M3.5 dwarfs and a white dwarf, a sample that in microcosm mimics the population of the solar neighborhood. Although the odds of detecting a transit among only 12 targets is small, the variability data are valuable for astrophysical studies of the nearest stars and an investment in the future, should non-transiting planets eventually be discovered around these stars. We can also set-up a complementary long-term variability monitoring program in conjunction to Kepler□s short-term data and will gather a full picture of the stars□ variability and flaring events, which are important to habitability of planets.