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Peace,

Howard



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Dear Reader,

Growing up in Indianapolis, my love for the Indiana Pacers goes back many years. Back to the day when they played in the ABA with the red, white and blue basketball. Watching games at the Coliseum and then Market Square Arena. Remembering names like George McGinnis, Mel Daniels, Billy Keller and coach Bobby “Slick” Leonard. These were among my hometown heroes growing up.

In the years that have followed, the red, white and blue basketball has given way to an orange ball. Thanks to a lot of work and community support, the Pacers were one of the teams to transition from the ABA into the NBA. Market Square Arena no longer exists and the team plays their home games at the Fieldhouse downtown. And the names have changed with new heroes like Halliburton, Siakam, Turner and Nembhard to name a few. But what hasn’t changed is the excitement of seeing the local team succeed. It is exciting not only for the players, but also for the community which rallies behind them.

There are many theories about why this current team is so successful. They play an unselfish style of basketball in which any player could be the hero of the game. They work well together as a team. They celebrate the success of one another. There seems to be a genuine respect one another. And, of course, they are quite talented.

Following their victory over the New York Knicks, Myles Turner credited their team’s success to “the power of friendship.” He equated their style to that of their Finals opponent, the Oklahoma City Thunder, in which “young guys get out and run, defend and use the power of friendships.”

I find that a very interesting quote. Most teams that have been eliminated are talking about what they need to improve their team. A better shooting guard. A forward who can defend. An intimidating center. But I don’t ever recall hearing a general manager or coach say, “What we need is to deepen the friendships between our players.”

I enjoy watching basketball, but have never been a good player. But perhaps I (and we) can all learn from the success of the current team and work to be the best friends we can possibly be. If the Pacers are any indication, it seems to be a working formula. And if it works on the basketball court, perhaps it might do wonders off the court as well.

Peace,

Howard



Prayer Concerns

Please pray for: Yvonne Achterberg, Nathan Ayers, Sue Ellen Brown, Wilbert Carr, Gloria Chandler, Donna Crim, Joe Davis, Melody Devoe, Judy Dewey, Dave Evans, Susan Gobert, Roberta Hartwell, Vicky Huckaby, Julianna Jerome-Drerup, Steve Johnson, Bob Losure, Jane Pettit, Terry Reimer, Tom Sharp, Melissa Stanley, Sara Taylor, Connie Wilson and Jacob Woodworth



Upcoming Activities

Love Chapel at the County Fair

Once again this year, Love Chapel will have a food stand at the Bartholomew County Fair. We have signed up to staff the lunch on June 26th. We are looking for 10-12 volunteers. If you would be interested in helping that day (or any other day), we will have sign-ups after church for the next two Sundays.

Mission Guatemala Collection

On Saturday June 7th, First UMC will send eleven individuals to Mission Guatemala for a week of service. The team will be working on a rural school to help build a cafeteria and kitchen. Along with their work, the team will be able to take items to the local clinic. If you would like to donate items for the team to distribute, what they are requesting are the following: Children's multivitamins 50 mg (gummy or chewable), Vitamin C tablets (1000 mg.) or Zinc Gummy vitamins (50 mg.) Please have any donations to the church by Wednesday June 4th.

Ugly Tie Sunday

Sunday June, 15th, we encourage you to wear a tie to church. Men, women, children, everyone is invited. But, here's the catch. Pick out that outrageous, goofy, downright silly tie that has been lurking in the back of your closet. Or maybe make it a handmade creation. But join us for Sunday worship that morning with your ugliest, silliest tie.

June Book Club

The June Book Club selection is an upbeat novel by Claire Swinarski entitled, “The Funeral Ladies of Ellerie County.” This book involves characters who refer to themselves as the “the funeral ladies” who believe that there is nothing that a warm casserole and a piece of cherry pie cannot fix. Follow these characters for some Northwoods kindness that is sure to bring pleasant memories. We will meet in the church library on Sunday June 15th at 6:00 p.m. for the discussion. All are welcome!

Mountain Mission Truck

The United Methodist Mission truck, an outreach ministry from rural Kentucky will be coming through Columbus on Tuesday June 17th. You can bring gently used clothing or household items and small furniture to the church prior to that date for pick up.

Brown Bag Luncheon

Wednesday June 18th at noon is the next Brown Bag luncheon. Bring a lunch and join us for a time of informal conversation and fellowship. All are welcome!

Next Sunday's Sermon

June 8 "These Bones Will Live"

Texts: Acts 2:1-21 and Ezekiel 37:1-6

Pentecost, though a single date our church calendars, represents one of the most powerful movements of the Holy Spirit in Christian History. When we think of Pentecost, we often think of a fire coming down and people speaking in different tongues – but this day is about so much more than that. Pentecost invites us to experience the Holy Spirit in a life-giving way. As we explore Acts and Ezekiel together, we will recognize on this day, that the Holy Spirit is often working in the places of our lives that look like graveyards (dry, barren, and lifeless), and breathing new life into them making them places of liveliness, well-being, and flourishing.