



May 19, 2019

Rev. Megan Huesgan, Pastor at Immanuel UCC, Honored

A local pastor recently recognized during Berks Connections/Pretrial Services' annual awards breakfast.

As she accepted the 2019 Life Improvement Ambassador award from Berks Connections/Pretrial Services, the Rev. Megan Huesgan encouraged those in the room to take a cue from a bunch of golfers in Kolkata who were frustrated with some nuisance monkeys.

Huesgan, pastor of Immanuel United Church of Christ in Shillington, said that the British built the golf course while colonizing India, but didn't factor in the monkeys, who would drop out of trees, scurry across the course and grab golf balls, only to later drop them wherever. After several unsuccessful attempts to get rid of the pests with fences, distractions and traps, Huesgan said a new ground rule was established: Play the ball where the monkey drops it.

"We each have a ball on this course we call life and there are those moments when the proverbial monkey moves our ball and we have absolutely no desire to play it where it is now placed," she said. "BCPS exemplifies day after day to keep swinging, keep playing the ball." Huesgan was honored last week during the 14th annual BCPS Life Improvement Awards Breakfast at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in Reading. BCPS is a community-based organization that provides services to adult defendants, inmates, returning citizens and their families.

Thomas Rentschler, president of the BCPS board, said Huesgan served as a board member from 2016 to 2018 and has been an amazing advocate to help expand the organization's presence, especially in the faith-based community. "Megan promotes the importance of the community's role in providing hope and second chances," Rentschler said.

"Her passion for improving lives inspires others to get involved. Many volunteers and supporters attending this morning were introduced to BCPS by Megan." Huesgan said she's grateful to travel the course with BCPS, emphasizing the agency believes people can change and aren't defined by where their ball is today. "The hole that we are aiming for is the one that recognizes and honors the inherent dignity of all humanity," she said. "It is my humble opinion and my audacious hope that we keep aiming for that hole, the hole where each knows the fullness of his or her potential, where grace abounds with second and third and 700th chances, and we recognize that every swing and every action we make has the potential to move all of us closer to the hole."



Huesgan closed the morning by recognizing the "monkeys of BCPS" and their endless efforts to help others have a better shot at the hole. She said there's the familiar image of a trio of monkeys with their hands covering their eyes, ears and mouth to represent, "See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil." "That's not this bunch," she said. "The BCPS monkeys have hands that are outstretched, they see with eyes of potential, they listen with nonjudgmental ears and they speak realistic hope and encouragement."

- Excerpts from an article in *The Reading Eagle*



General Synod 32 Plans Continue

The theme for the 32nd General Synod is based on the scripture Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let your light shine before others . . ."

"When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world." — The Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister.



Use the following link to get updated information on Resolutions and everything happening at General Synod 32, June 21-25 in Milwaukee.

<https://www.synod2019.org>