

THE POWER OF STORY

*Learning How to
Listen to and Tell
Stories of Faith*

WORKSHOPS



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Making Meaning of Messy Stories

Dr. Joanna Lile



Is it possible to identify with the less than saintly people in the Church's past? We'll talk about how we might make meaning of stories from the Baptist tradition that don't have a neat and tidy ending.

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*This Is My Story, This Is
My Song: How the
Hymns We Sing Shape
the Faith We Live*

Rev. Steve Price

In this session we'll have lots of fun and come away feeling good about how hymns/music shape our faith story, sometimes without us even realizing it, and how those precious lyrics and tunes are there for us internally when we need them most!



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Clouds of Witnesses

Mrs. Matilda Solomon



Across the ages, from the Old Testament until today, people have been tempted to give up on life itself. Yet, whenever they reached out, the Lord renewed their strength, and they grew in faith, rest, and productivity. In this workshop, Matilda Solomon will share her personal experience with mental health challenges as well as stories from the Bible of how people received renewed strength to trust, walk by faith, rest, and live purposeful lives. We are shaped by all the parts of our stories, even those that are hard.

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Godly Play: Making Meaning Through Story, Wonder and Play

Dr. Elizabeth Conrad



Cross the threshold into the Godly Play space created for you to come close to God. Get quiet to ready yourself to hear one of the stories of our faith. Know that there is always something new to hear! This is a great opportunity for parents and grandparents of younger children, as well as those who work and serve with children to learn about how Godly Play helps children discover the mystery of God through storytelling, open-ended wondering, and creative play.

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Telling the Bigger Story

Rev. Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Human beings are hardwired for stories. Every day, we're handed a million and one data points—from the news, social media, the people around us, and our own experiences—and our brains instinctively weave them together into a story that helps us make sense of the world.

The problem? Sometimes we're unreliable narrators.

In this interactive workshop, Mary Alice will lead us to explore the stories we carry about ourselves, one another, and God—and practice looking for the bigger story. Through Scripture, reflection, conversation, and a little storytelling, we'll consider how curiosity can loosen our certainty, how perspective can change the stories we tell, and how God is inviting us into a bigger story.

