About Jerry Stropnicky:

Director, writer, and actor; husband, father, and friend; United Methodist lay person, finance chair, and dedicated Christian; Jerry Stropnicky is lifelong learner, interested colleague, and engaged citizen.

Jerry’s internationally acclaimed accomplishments, numerous published books, articles, and plays, and volunteer service record tell only part of the story of who he is. Jerry brings to all he meets; zeal for life, great talent, and engaging personality.

Jerry will engage “Kindling the Fire for Advent” participants in the ancient story and foster an environment for creating way for telling their own story and leading others in story telling that transforms life. Participants will leave with a wellspring of ideas and plans for leading congregations and worshippers through the Advent season.

Jerry’s official Biography: After graduating from Northwestern, he studied with Alvina Krause, and in 1978 co-founded Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble (BTE), where he worked for the next 35 years, serving two stints as Ensemble Director, and becoming Emeritus in 2012. At BTE he acted in well over 100 productions. He has directed 66 productions to date, including classic, contemporary, new and original plays at BTE and elsewhere, and he’s written, co-written or devised a score more. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, culled from 200 years of letters to local newspapers, was published as a play by Baker’s Plays/Samuel French and as a trade paperback by Touchstone/Simon & Schuster. In rural communities such as Harlan, KY; Sautee-Nacoochee, GA; Colquitt, GA; Wellsboro, PA: as well as in Bloomsburg, he writes and directs large-scale original site-specific productions featuring diverse community casts employing local story to celebrate, challenge, and address intractable issues. This community-story work includes many productions with playwright Jo Carson. His work has taken him to ten countries in Africa. Mr. Stropnicky co-founded the Network of Ensemble Theaters. He was named USA Lowe Fellow in Theater Arts in 2010. For his service to the autism community, he was the 2010 Temple Grandin Award winner.

Event Cost - includes workshop, food, materials
- Single registration - $175.00
- Team of Two - $150.00 per person
- Team of Three or more - $125.00 per person.

Find online registration at ngumc.org

Daily Text Work includes


Sponsored by the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church

Kindling the Fire for Advent

A story telling and worship planning workshop opportunity for clergy and worship teams to gather around the story of God’s love in the world
Where do we find story?

Where do we find our stories?

Rekindling the Fire for Advent workshop is an opportunity for you and your worship team to gather around the story of God’s love in the world.

This empowering workshop explores varied story sources, including source documents, neighbors, our elders, our children and ourselves.

We’ll learn skills to work within our communities to create compelling experience that sets the stage for community dialogue and positive change.

We will actively explore the elements that give story power and legitimacy: AGENCY, ARTISTRY, AUTHENTICITY, AUDACITY, ACCURACY and ADVOCACY.

We’ll develop interview skills, practice Story Circles, and take time to examine the ethics involved in story work, whether we stretch it, condense it, give it straight, give it away, or tell it yourself.

We’ll play with the power of story, toward creating compelling experience that sets the stage for community dialogue and positive change.

Why We Do This

This Advent preparation event offers more than a way to get a head start on Advent worship and ministry planning.

You will learn from master story teller and teacher Jerry Stropnicky, fundamentals for offering the ancient story of God’s love in new and relevant ways.

You will walk away with deeper relationships among your leadership team. You will take with you ways to help even divided congregations re-create their own story of love and service together in this world so desperately needing The Hope of God in our midst.

Jerry says this about his work with story:

“So as part of my life I’ve made it my mission to help crack open stories and communities and figure out ways to help communities tell their tales. Every community has its own way of telling stories.”

DAILY SCHEDULE

9:30 - Registration, Monday. Gathering time Tuesday-Thursday (coffee and light breakfast fare available)
10:00 - Check-in
10:30 - 2:30 Listening to the story, learning from the story, sharing the story (lunch provided each day)
2:30 - Check-out
3:00 - Good-bye

Contact:
Nanci Hicks
nanci.hicks@ngumc.net

Registration:
ngumc.org

Begin with Story

A recent blog post from Travis Garner was entitled “Being a Pastor in a 5-4 World”.

This resonates for church leaders who understand part of their role as being a loving and leading presence in the midst of often divided congregants.

Many pastors and leadership teams find themselves asking more questions than offering solutions for worship and fellowship and meaningful service. How do we offer honest, relevant, enriching, enlivening worship in such a time as this? How can we be the people of God united in love and witness in such a time as this?

We begin at the beginning, with a story.