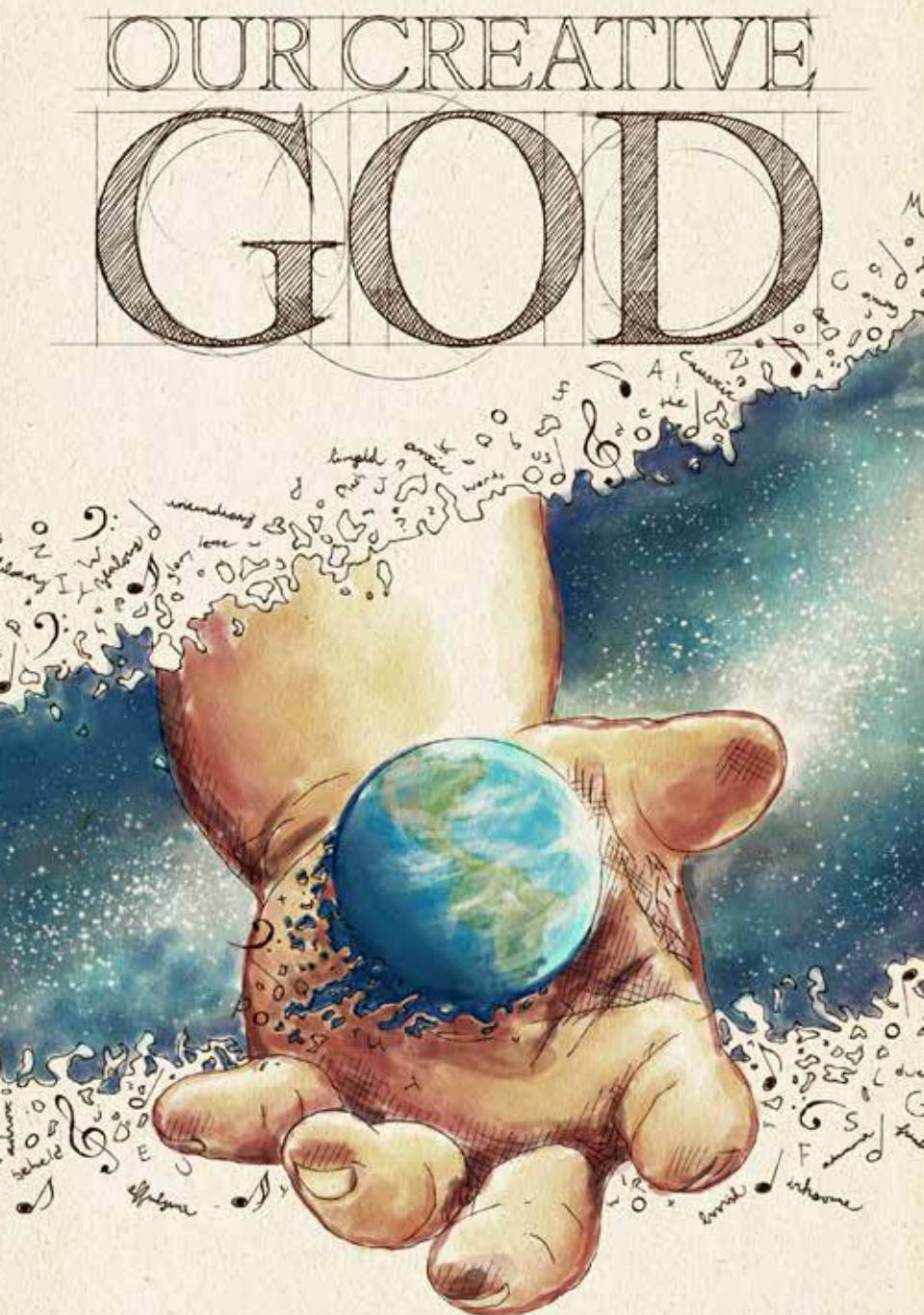


52nd Annual

WRITERS AND ARTISTS' CONFERENCE



CHRISTIAN LIGHT

June 18, 19, 2026

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- 12:00–1:00 **Pick Up Name Tags**
- 1:00–1:10 **Singing and Welcome**
- 1:10–1:35 **Message: God, the Writer**
- 1:35–1:45 **Orientation**

MODERATOR: Brian Yoder
SONG LEADER: Wendell Glick

David L. Miller

1:50–2:50 **WORKSHOP SESSION 1**

1.1 **ART** Pencil Art, Part 1: From Flat to 3D Diane Horst

You've developed drawing skills for accurate flat sketches. Now you want to transform them into lifelike, dimensional forms with realistic textures. Learn advanced techniques like layering, utilizing a broad range of tone, and choosing the appropriate paper and tools for the effect you want.

1.2 **ARTICLES** Writing to the Head Ryan Stoltzfus

Your writing should appeal to the emotions. But if it isn't logical and well-researched, it won't stand under scrutiny. In this class, we will learn how to research well, edit for clarity, and avoid logical fallacies, constructing an article that convinces the mind.

1.3 **MUSIC** Voice Leading, Part 1: The Foundation Wendell Glick

The three Voice Leading workshops will address part-writing stylistic practices in Western common-practice period music (ca. 1600–1900) as an introduction to composing four-part harmony as found in our church hymnals. In Part 1, we will examine species counterpoint as the foundation of common-practice voice leading, then explore contexts and priorities of this practice, unstylistic departures, and moving beyond stylistic constraints.

1.4 **STORIES** Entering the World of a Child* Tina Fehr

Children have their own unique personalities, problems, viewpoints, responses, speech, and mannerisms. Let's discuss how to enter the world of a child with the goal of creating authentic child characters.

1.5 **STORIES** Memorable Picture Books Karen Yoder

What techniques captivate your preschooler so that he requests a particular book to be read repeatedly? We will analyze several picture books that have earned their keep.

1.6 **WRITING** The Art and Craft of Re-Visioning* G. C. Waldrep

Too often we think of "revision" as "editing." But revision is also re-visioning: seeing one's work in new ways and experimenting with possibilities that may lie hidden inside a first or early draft. In this session we'll review some strategies for creative, artful revision by re-visioning what you've already put on the page.

2:50–3:00 **Break**

3:00–4:00 **WORKSHOP SESSION 2**

2.1 **ART** Pencil Art, Part 2: Depth and Dimension Diane Horst

A continuation of Part 1, this will be an intensive workshop focused on advanced pencil shading techniques.

2.2 **DESIGN** An Introduction to Digital Art Keith Hartman

Have you heard of digital art but don't get what it's all about? Is it AI art? Are you interested but don't know where to start? Join me for a look at equipment, software, and the many forms of digital art.

*Workshops marked with an asterisk will be repeated.

2.3 **PHOTOGRAPHY** Photography as a Tool for Storytelling and Worship Mark Petersheim

Rediscover the beauty of God's world through a camera lens. Explore composition, lighting, and visual storytelling while also reflecting on photography as a spiritual discipline. Learn how to capture the quiet moments where God reveals His presence—and how to use those images to tell stories that glorify Him.

2.4 **POETRY** Writing Quotable Poetry Marlene R. Brubacher

Some poems are good, but forgettable. Others contain lines that linger down the centuries. Are such quotes an accident, or can we learn the elements of eloquence?

2.5 **STORIES** Lessons Learned in Writing a Series Katrina Hoover Lee

Is writing a nine-book series nine times worse than writing a single book? Yes and no! A series can make life easier or harder for the writer. In this class, I'll share observations from my own experiences and observations from others.

2.6 **WRITING** Understanding Humans* Amy Engbretson

A deep and gentle knowledge of yourself and others gives your writing resonance and allows others to see themselves in your words. Learn how to grow this knowledge and explore literary examples of it.

4:00–4:15 **Break**

4:15–5:15 **WORKSHOP SESSION 3**

3.1 **ART** Train Your Mind Naoma Lee

Creativity isn't just a gift; it's a cultivated skill. Let's engage your brain and challenge some misconceptions we have about ourselves by brainstorming how to do art in unusual and creative ways.

3.2 **ARTICLES** Addressing Relevant Topics With Grace Nathan Zook

Acute social ills or concerning church trends can trigger us to write articles. Yet Jesus calls us to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." How can we provide a prophetic voice that goes beyond condemnation and handles these topics with the grace exemplified by Christ?

3.3 **POETRY** Poem Prompts: How to Write When Inspiration Fails G. C. Waldrep

Most of us are busy people! We long for time to write. But too often when the time comes—whether it's twenty minutes or two hours—all inspiration seems to have vanished. How can or should you proceed in such moments?

3.4 **STORIES** That's Funny Josh Engbretson

What makes funny, funny? Is all humor good humor? You have a funny story. How can you capture the humor and pass on to others the delight and joy it brought you?

3.5 **STORIES** Writing and Redemption Arlin Weaver

Our stories and writing, especially as we engage with post-Christian cultures, should be infused with the hope of God's Good News proclamation and His meta-narrative of redemption. Write like a "secret agent" of His kingdom.

3.6 **WRITING** Traditional Publishing vs. Self-Publishing Katrina Hoover Lee

To self-publish or not to self-publish? That is the question. The answer is nuanced, with distinct advantages and disadvantages to both traditional and self-publishing routes. I will share observations from my own journey and what I've learned from others, along with answering your questions to the best of my ability.

5:30–7:00 **Supper**

THURSDAY EVENING

7:00–7:15 **Singing**

7:15–8:05 **Story: Three Stages of Prayer** Leroy Hershberger
A pilgrim's progress from "Gimme" and "Help" to "Thank You."

FRIDAY MORNING

8:30–8:40 **Singing and Offering**

8:40–9:05 **Message: God, the Artist** David L. Miller

9:05–9:10 **Announcements**

9:15–10:15 **WORKSHOP SESSION 4**

4.1 ART Ink and Watercolor, Part 1 Charlotte Peachey

Learn how to capture scenes around you with a quick sketch, a splash of watercolor, and ink lines for definition and detail. In the first class, you will learn tips and tricks in laying down watercolor.

4.2 DESIGN Message and Media Arlin Weaver

Message matters, and good design serves to deliver that message to an intended audience. Cut through the clutter and noise to refocus and reorient graphic design and rediscover the power of simplicity and minimalism in design.

4.3 MUSIC Voice Leading, Part 2: The Framework Wendell Glick

In Part 2 (continued from Voice Leading, Part 1), we will survey the typical roles and expressions of three structural harmonic functions (tonic, dominant, predominant) and the standard harmonic phrase model, along with authentic cadences.

4.4 STORIES What Is Storytelling and Why Does It Change People? Leroy Hershberger

Stories engage mind, heart, and identity at the same time; consider with me how this works. How can stories invite new perspectives that feel safe rather than threatening? Why is emotional memory so persistent? How can we better our telling and writing?

4.5 WRITING Conducting Interviews Katrina Hoover Lee

People are endlessly unique, which makes interviews endlessly fascinating. In this class, I'll share stories from my interviewing history, and we'll discuss and demonstrate principles that work with most people.

4.6 WRITING Understanding Humans* Amy Engbretson

A repeat of Workshop 2.6.

10:15–10:30 **Break**

10:30–11:30 **WORKSHOP SESSION 5**

5.1 ART Ink and Watercolor, Part 2 Charlotte Peachey

In this class we will add more definition to our painting by adding ink lines and details.

5.2 ARTICLES Writing to the Heart Ryan Stoltzfus

Too many articles are as dry as the Sahara. But great writers like C.S. Lewis combine strong logic with powerful emotion. In this class, we will examine how to weave the varied emotions of the human experience into our writing.

5.3 MUSIC Understanding the Voice Samuel Heatwole

The voice is an incredible gift God has given us to use for His glory. In this workshop, we will explore how the voice works and how we can improve our vocal techniques to sing better. Come discover the potential in the voice God gave you.

5.4 POETRY The Rigorous Craft of Free Verse

Marlene R. Brubacher

Short lines do not a poem make. But in the fluid world of free verse, what defines quality? This class will expand on some concepts from Writing Quotable Poetry, but both classes stand by themselves.

5.5 STORIES Slithy Toves in a Mimsy World

Joyce Beachy

How do the sounds of a word affect our writing choices? Sounds do not convey fixed meanings, yet certain sound qualities lend impressions or help set a mood. We aren't Lewis Carroll writing "Jabberwocky," but we can select words with sounds that enhance our poems, stories, and advertisements.

5.6 WRITING From Idea to Publication: The Birth of a Book

Regina Rosenberry

Have you ever had an idea and thought, *I should write a book*? In this workshop, we will look at ways to discern if your idea is book material and the steps needed to make your dream a reality.

11:45–1:15 **Lunch**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

1:15–2:15 WORKSHOP SESSION 6

6.1 ART Digital Illustration

Charlotte Peachey

Join me as I demonstrate my process for the ink drawing and digital watercolor illustrations behind the Bible verse cards I design. Learn layering and blending techniques and more. This will be an iPad demo on using the digital painting app Procreate.

6.2 ARTICLES How Can I Make My Article More Interesting?

Nathan Zook

We want our articles to be impactful. Prose that reads like a policy memo may not lead to the memorable influence we are seeking. Without relying on exaggeration, sensationalism, or highly unusual stories, how can we grab the reader's attention?

6.3 PHOTOGRAPHY Feathers and Flight: The Art of Bird Photography

Mark Petersheim

Nature enthusiasts are invited to slow down and notice the birds that live close to home. Through careful observation, practical techniques, and attention to light and stillness, we will learn how to photograph feathers in motion and at rest without having to travel to exotic locations.

6.4 STORIES She Lives the Words She Cannot Write

Regena Weaver

How do I live a life of words amid the chaos of family responsibilities? Can I preserve memories while preserving vegetables? Let's explore ways of making peace with the tension of a writer's soul when your hands are full.

6.5 WRITING The Art and Craft of Re-Visioning*

G. C. Waldrep

A repeat of Workshop 1.6.

6.6 WRITING Demystifying the Publishing Process

Caleb Crider, William Hoover

Submitting a manuscript for publication is scary. Come listen as two members of Christian Light's publications committee discuss ways authors can increase their chances of publication, the manuscript evaluation process, and the publication journey once a manuscript is accepted. An informal presentation, with time for Q&A.

2:15–2:35 **Break**

2:35–3:35 **WORKSHOP SESSION 7**

7.1

ART Pen Art Perused

Joanna Rohrer

What are the benefits of ink art—why do we still stick with it? What are the limitations? Let's examine samples of ink art, considering the techniques that give them quality and the flaws that detract. This class should help equip you to improve an ink rendering.

7.2

MUSIC Voice Leading, Part 3: The Finish

Wendell Glick

In Part 3 (continued from Voice Leading, Part 2), we will consider common-practice expectations for doubling, common tones, inversions (especially second inversion), and seventh-chord treatment, followed by a survey of common nonharmonic tones.

7.3

POETRY Poems and Rhymes for Children

Karen Yoder

How does one write to capture a child's imagination, his humor, his realism? What makes a poem sing for little ones? Bring a tried-and-true piece to share with the group.

7.4

STORIES Entering the World of a Child*

Tina Fehr

A repeat of Workshop 1.4.

7.5

STORIES Rooted Writing

Arlin Weaver

Good writing should have deep roots of meaningful context. Explore five foundations that will give your writing depth—authenticity, experience, place, history, and language—and become intentional about establishing them.

7.6

WRITING Fields and Forests: Communicating the Outdoor Experience

Josh Engbretson

Everyone loves the outdoors, but for some of us, being in God's creation is a special time. How do we communicate to others what happens in our souls out there? You've had an adventure, a deeply moving personal experience, a terrifying moment in the dark woods. How do you put it into words?

3:35–3:50 **Break**

3:50–4:10 **Message: God, the Composer**

David L. Miller

4:15 **Dismissal**

Supper (here or to-go) will be provided after dismissal.

DIRECTIONS TO BEREA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

1351 Garbers Church Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Traveling south on I-81

Take Exit 245; turn right onto Rt. 253 (Port Republic Rd). Go 0.5 miles; continue straight onto Maryland Ave. Go 0.4 miles; turn left onto Rt. 42. Go 1.3 miles; turn right onto Rt. 726 (Erickson Ave). Go 0.6 miles; turn left onto Rt. 910 (Garbers Church Rd). Go 300 feet; Berea Christian School is on the left.

Traveling north on I-81

Take Exit 243; turn right onto Rt. 11. Go 1.4 miles; turn left onto Rt. 726 (Erickson Ave). Go 1.6 miles; turn left onto Rt. 910 (Garbers Church Rd). Go 300 feet; Berea Christian School is on the left.

Amy Engbretson lives in northwestern Idaho with one husband, four beautiful children, and three thousand books. She writes primarily nonfiction essays, but reads everything, including people.

Arlin Weaver is a homeschool dad of six, a husband to Regena, a graphic designer, and a regenerative farmer. He lives in rural eastern Ontario, in the good company of family, farm animals, books, words, and neighbors.

Caleb Crider is Christian Light's marketing director and chairs Christian Light's book publishing committee. He is the author of several books, the latest of which is *The Team Player Challenge*.

Charlotte Peachey has dabbled in many forms of art since she was a child, recently focusing on watercolor and digital illustration. She and her husband Titus live in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, with their two little girls. While they nap, Charlotte can be found illustrating Bible passages for her small business, Sword and Honey. Learn more at swordandhoney.com.

David L. Miller lives in Waynesboro, Virginia, where he serves in leadership at his local church and contributes to international education and curriculum development with Christian Light. He cares deeply about the ways art and theology nurture beauty and community.

Diane Horst was an art teacher and illustrator for Christian Light before going freelance in 2011. Her work includes a variety of mediums, but she specializes in oil paintings and pencil drawings. She lives in Lititz, Pennsylvania, and enjoys pickleball, meaningful conversations, and solitude in nature.

G. C. Waldrep has authored eight collections of poetry and one book of nonfiction. He taught creative writing at the University of Iowa, Deep Springs College, Kenyon College, and Bucknell University, from which he retired in 2025. He is a member of the Portico district of the Old Order River Brethren and lives in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

Joanna Rohrer, a Shenandoah Valley native, began doing ink drawings for Christian Light in 1990. Her current work involves coordinating the illustration of story papers and filling various illustration requests, including photos and vector maps. Sideline activities: working outdoors, reading, and visiting others.

Josh Engbretson lives in Grangeville, Idaho, with his wife Amy and four children. He builds fences to pay their bills and writes at Borderlands:joshengbretson.com.

Joyce Beachy lives in Staunton, Virginia, and coordinates literacy-related curriculum projects at Christian Light. She enjoys delving into the intricacies of language, exploring intersections between literature and theology, and putting her English and Writing Studies majors to practical use.

Karen Yoder is entertained most days teaching first graders how to read. She reads to grow and writes to understand more fully.

Katrina Hoover Lee is the author of eighteen books, most recently the Brady Street Boys adventure series. She lives with her husband Marnell and their daughter in Elkhart, Indiana.

Keith Hartman is a graphic designer by day and distracted creative by night. His primary workspace consists of a computer, digital pen tablet, and sundry recording equipment. He looks askance at "art" referring to anything not created by God or man.

Leroy Hershberger, of Reno County, Kansas, repairs farm machinery; teaches high school welding and auto mechanics; and enjoys travel, new foods, cycling,

and juggling. Leroy entertains his family and friends with storytelling. He is very pleased with the James Webb Space Telescope and the night sky of rural Kansas.

Mark Petersheim, his wife Mary, and their six children served as missionaries in northern Canada for over two decades. A passionate outdoorsman and photographer, Mark delights in observing God's creation and encourages others to see the beauty of nature and worship the Creator. The Petersheims live in beautiful south-central Pennsylvania.

Marlene R. Brubacher rescues abandoned books, defends the Oxford comma, and grows poems.

Naoma Lee has always created in ink and pencil, but she recently began dabbling in watercolor and now enjoys painting book covers and story paper art. Besides working for Christian Light for twenty years, she has served in various Central American countries. She enjoys variety, cooking, singing, and people.

Nathan Zook pastors Hampden Mennonite Church in Baltimore, Maryland, where he resides with his wife, Faith, and seven children. He writes for *Homeschooler's Friend and Companions* and is the author of *My Brother's Keeper: Race Relations in Mennonite Perspective*. He enjoys kayaking and exploring new cities.

Regena Weaver, with her husband and six children, lives in rural eastern Ontario, finding more scope for story than time to capture it with words. When she juggles her wooden spoon, teacher's manuals, and a pen, it's usually the pen that drops.

Regina Rosenberry had her first article printed when she was 17. Christian Light recently published her first book, *Every Girl's Journey*. She lives in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, with her husband Darwin, and they are blessed with six children. Some of Regina's favorite things are sunshine, spontaneity, and sharing life's adventures with her family.

Ryan Stoltzfus lives in Dobson, North Carolina, with his wife Kristin. He works for Christian Light and enjoys church history, Biblical studies, and humor. He writes at ryanstoltzfus.substack.com.

Samuel Heatwole has always loved singing. In his teenage years, he started composing and arranging music. He directed the Shenandoah Valley Chorus for six years. He is now a choir director and instructor at Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute in Harrisonville, Pennsylvania.

Tina Fehr didn't expect to have a life interesting enough to write about, but being married to her ambitious husband, Jake, and homeschooling their six children proved otherwise. She is the author of the Fehr Family series and lives in southwestern Ontario.

Wendell Glick is a composer, choir director, and music educator, particularly focusing on contemporary hymnody and choral music. In addition to music composition and teaching, he finds employment in music arranging, editing, proofreading, consulting, and private music instruction. Wendell lives with his wife Janelle and their four children in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

William Hoover is paid to spend time reading and voicing his opinion, two things he has been known to do for free. In addition to his work on the Christian Light publications committee, he has a surprisingly interesting job at an accounting firm.

Registration Required

Use the accompanying registration form or register online: christianlight.org/wac

