



2026 Workshops

MAJOR MORNING CLASSES

Janelle Leonard: “An Author Worth Fighting For” - Office Conference Room

It’s a truth universally acknowledged that a writer in possession of a dream must be in want of discernment. Armed with ambition, hope, and far too much caffeine, they embark on their quest. But what does it truly mean to be an accomplished author—on the page, in the process, and in every interaction along the way? This class explores how cultivating Christlike character shapes not only your writing life, but also your relationships with editors, agents, peers, and the publishing journey itself, equipping you to become an author worth fighting for.

Edwina Perkins: “The Beginner’s Guide to Writing” - Torrey Dining Room

Whether you’ve never written a word or you’re just finding your footing, these workshops meet you where you are and walk with you toward where you want to go. For the next three mornings, we’ll explore essentials of the writing process, uncover tools and techniques to help you find your voice, shape your story, and connect with readers in meaningful ways.

Annette Whipple: “Dig Deeper into Nonfiction” – Chapel

Do you have ideas for writing nonfiction for adults, teens, or children but need to take it to the next level? Annette takes you through the writing process including brainstorming, researching, and consulting with experts. Attendees leave with strategies and ideas to write creative stories that are 100% true for their audiences (or heavily-researched fiction).

Janeen Ippolito: “Fiction: Fantastical Stories That Connect with Readers” - Torrey Parlor

What sets science fiction and fantasy apart from every other genre? The fantastical world building and concepts! But having ideas is only the beginning. How do you fit them into an irresistible narrative? How do you create unforgettable characters? How do you meld it all together with powerful themes that connect to readers without preaching? In this continuing session experienced sci-fi and fantasy author and coach Janeen Ippolito will share key tricks and tips for writing irresistible sci-fi and fantasy stories, including deep dives into worldview/theme, characters, narrative, and genre/reader expectations. Learn to embrace the creativity of sci-fi and fantasy storytelling for the kingdom of Christ. Come away rejuvenated and excited about your story world—and your story!



2026 Workshops

WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINARS

1. Pam Halter and Kim Sponaugle: “Read it Again, Please! Picture Book Mentoring Clinic” - Honeyman Seminar Room

Led by award-winning author/illustrator team Pam Halter and Kim Sponaugle, this clinic breaks down the picture book process so participants leave with either a submission-ready manuscript or the tools to revise with confidence. Pam and Kim review each manuscript in advance and tailor workshops to the group’s needs while covering key fundamentals. Each conferee also receives one-on-one time as others work on guided assignments. What sets this clinic apart is the dual perspective—Pam as author/editor and Kim as illustrator—offering both narrative and visual insight so attendees can craft engaging stories that inspire young readers to say, “Read it again, please!”

Prerequisite: Applicants need to have a finished picture book manuscript (Christian or a story that does not oppose Christian values) 1,000 words or less, which needs to be emailed to Pam a month before the conference. Since personal attention is given to each manuscript from both the author and illustrator, the clinic is limited to 12 participants. There is an additional fee for this since participants will receive a critique from both Pam and Kim.

2. Cathy Mayfield: Teen Writing Track: “Writing with a Pen and S.W.O.R.D” - Tea Room

To write from hearts of TRUTH, writers draw from the Sword of the Spirit. Teen writers who wield this Sword turn articles and stories into powerful entities that can change the world for their peers and adults. These interactive classes focus on the acronym S.W.O.R.D. to make writing endeavors stronger in the TRUTH that matters, with or without mentioning God. Class discussions and exercises in fiction and nonfiction will show how each part of the S.W.O.R.D. works and give ideas/tips to use in current and future projects. Each session will include a “TRUTH guideline” from special guest peer-mentors.



2026 Workshops

TUESDAY

101: Julie Manwarren: “Research Tips for Historical Fiction and Nonfiction Writers”

- Chapel

Truth is stranger (and more interesting) than fiction! Learn effective research tips for crafting a story that people will want to read. Whether for your historical fiction novel or a nonfiction publication or article, strong research gives you all you need to create strong content.

102: Sue Fairchild: “Writing with Friends: How to Find or Form a Critique Group”

- Torrey Dining Room

Having a writing community is essential in your growth as a writer, and it’s so much more fun to write with friends. But how do you find or create a writing community that provides the feedback, accountability, and encouragement you need? This class breaks down the various ways to form and structure a critique group, provides tips on how to support others on their writing journey while growing your Christian writing ministry, and discusses the pitfalls and common mistakes critique groups make and how to avoid them.

103: Pastor Rollin Howard: “Understanding the Value of Biblical Narrative: Part 1”

- Honeyman Seminar Room

There is nothing quite as inspiring as analyzing a great work of literature. The great writers are masters of their craft. Arguably, two of the greatest authors the world has ever read are Moses and Solomon. In Session One, we will discuss the narrative techniques Moses used to tell the Genesis Story.

104: Michele Chenoweth: “Which Publishing Path to Take? (Traditional vs. Self-Publishing)” - Torrey Parlor

Like most writers, Michele believed that she had the next bestseller and would be discovered by a major publisher. After sending out several queries, she finally gave up in frustration and self-published her first novel, putting her 30-plus years of experience as an advertising/marketing/public relations professional successfully to work. About a year later on the advice of another author, she submitted it to several Christian publishers and was offered a contract with a traditional publisher. She has since gone on to contract with a literary agent and her novels are currently being published by a large New York publisher. Join her as she discusses all of the pros and cons of traditional vs. self-publishing when it comes to time, money, marketing and more—and how to best approach each publishing path.



2026 Workshops

201: Michelle Lazurek: “The Agent/Client Relationship” - Torrey Parlor

Every author dreams of being published. That’s why working with an agent is so vital to your career. What do you need to know before working with one? In this workshop, we will discuss:

- Five ways the agent/client relationship is so unique
- Five common misconceptions about the agent/client relationship
- What you need to before contacting an agent
- Bonus: Five things you need to create a stellar proposal that catches an agent’s attention

202: Marti Pieper: “Writing Interrupted” - Chapel

When Marti began her freelance writing career, she was a pastor’s wife and homeschooling mom of five young children. Then, she was a caregiver to her husband, who was dealing with a rare form of young-onset Alzheimer’s. She was also a full-time freelance writer and editor at the time. Both situations (and the many in between) have offered interruptions and reasons not to write. In this workshop, Marti presents the reasons we should write, the obstacles that often keep us from it, and the practical, spiritual strategies that will help you press toward publication.

203: Marsha Hubler: “Bring Out the Child in You” (Chapter Books) - Honeyman Seminar Room

So, you want to write for children? Preschool? Tweens? Teens? Young Adult? Because it’s “easier” than writing for adults? We’ll discuss what it takes to write an excellent, publishable story or chapter book for a certain young age group. What about theme? Plot? Character description? Dialogue? Climax and resolution? How are all these facets of writing for children different from writing those books for grown-ups? Come and find out.

204: Sarah Scranta: “We Have a Better Story” - Torrey Dining Room

In a world crowded with competing narratives, Christian writers are entrusted with something deeper, more enduring, and TRUE—the story of God at work in and through His people. This session will both encourage and challenge you to write with courage, clarity, and faithfulness, even when cultural pressures push in the opposite direction. Together, we’ll explore what it means to steward the Word we’ve been given, resist fear, and craft stories that proclaim His truth, hope, and redemption. If you’ve ever felt hesitant to speak boldly through your writing, this session will remind you: we don’t just have a story—we have the better story. Let’s share it!



2026 Workshops

301: Robin Luftig: "Have Them Lean In When You Speak" - Chapel

Your message is a powerful one, but you're not connecting with your audience. Remember, they're already in the chairs. They want to hear what you have to say. The purpose of this workshop is to build your confidence. When the word's out that you have your audience leaning in, event planners will want to ask you back. In this workshop some of the topics we'll cover are:

- Prep and Content
- Practice and Delivery
- Performance and Engagement

302: Ellen Byham: "Everyone is a Poet" - Torrey Parlor

Beginner's Poetry covers the basics of poetry. We will write a sonnet, a freestyle, and do classroom interactions to increase awareness of descriptive words and incorporate emotion into the writing. If time allows, we will create a group poem in the second class.

303: Julie Manwarren: "Breaking the Story: Journalism in 2026" - Honeyman Seminar Room

Learn how to break into the journalism field in today's volatile news market and how journalism has changed. This workshop will teach strong interview and research skills while giving you guidance on how to quickly and effectively get the story that needs to be told.

304: Pastor Rollin Howard: "Understanding the Value of Biblical Narrative: Part 2"

- Torrey Dining Room

There is nothing quite as inspiring as analyzing a great work of literature. The great writers are masters of their craft. Arguably, two of the greatest authors the world has ever read are Moses and Solomon. In Session Two, we will examine a selection of Solomon's proverbs and identify the underlying techniques for writing Wisdom Literature. Seeing these techniques will improve your reading of the Biblical narratives and wisdom sections and perhaps spark some fresh ideas to improve your own writing.



2026 Workshops

WEDNESDAY

401: Marsha Hubler: "Breathing Life Into your Children's Story" - Chapel

Continuing what we covered in the first class, we'll discuss what skills you need to write an excellent, publishable story or book for a certain young age group. How do you choose a topic? What's the difference between theme and plot? How do you develop a "unique" main character? How do you prevent writing boring dialogue? What does it mean to *write outside the box*? How do you share the Christian message in your story without preaching? We'll discuss all these issues and more.

402: Sue Fairchild: "Tracking Changes: Tools for Editing" - Torrey Dining Room

This 45-minute workshop will go over the various aspects of the Track Changes feature (where to find it in Microsoft Word and the different basic elements) then work through an edit, showing how editors utilize the feature when working with clients. We will also go over the "Editor" function in Word, how to utilize the Find/Replace feature to its fullest capacity, and setting up a clean document before sending to an editor or publisher.

403: Lisa Betz: "Perfecting Your Media Pitch" - Honeyman Seminar Room

Perfecting Your Media Pitch: How to Snag Interviews on Podcasts, Radio and More. Learn how to promote your work through guest interviews. These strategies will help you craft an effective pitch, figure out where to send it, and sound like a pro when you're accepted for an interview.

404: Michele Chynoweth: "Authorship: Make it Your Business!" - Torrey Parlor

Do you love writing enough to do it full-time but aren't sure how to turn it into a career? Through a variety of practical business, sales, marketing, publicity, and even public speaking tips, Michele will lend her past experience as an advertising agency owner, marketing director, and award-winning Toastmaster to help you learn how to operate as a corporation, brand your books, start or improve upon your website, social media, public relations, speaking, and much more. In this information-packed workshop Michele will teach you how to employ business and marketing strategies to get more sales through networking, email campaigns, book signings and event marketing, and how to set up an innovative "system" so you can see sales and profits result.



2026 Workshops

501: Michelle Lazurek: “Writing to Shape Culture” – Torrey Parlor

Global Pandemic. Government shutdowns. Economic uncertainty. Given the tumultuous nature of the world around us, is it any wonder Christians feel more hopeless than ever? It can feel like no matter what they do to spread the Gospel, it doesn't seem to help. This workshop will help them understand that they already possess some of the best tools to tell people about Jesus. In this workshop we will:

- Identify your core values to understand your core message
- Understand the world's values to spread the Gospel
- Identify the cries of the world to better target your message
- Write a tagline that reflects these values

502: Marti Pieper: “Writing for Fun and Nonprofits” - Chapel

Do you want to think outside the query letter or book proposal? This workshop offers suggestions for using your writing to serve a nonprofit whose values you support. Writing for nonprofits can help you gain experience, tithe your writing time, and even earn money as you use your words to make a difference. Marti, who has written and edited for several 501(c)(3) organizations as a part of her freelance career, shares the do's and don'ts of this unique writing niche along with other tips learned along the nonprofit road.

503: Don Catlett: “The Ethics of AI” – Honeyman Seminar Room

Christian writers today are facing a real tension. Can you use tools like ChatGPT without compromising your voice, your message, or your faith? This workshop tackles that question head-on. We'll explore the real pros and concerns. From saving time and overcoming writer's block to fears about authenticity, over-reliance, and honoring God in your work. You'll learn practical, biblically grounded ways to use AI as a tool, not a crutch, so your writing remains distinctly yours and clearly God-honoring. If you've been curious, cautious, or conflicted about AI, this session will help you move forward with clarity and conviction.

504: Sarah Scranta: “Creating Print Marketing Materials: Part 1” – Torrey Dining Room

You've written the words—now how do you help readers discover them? In this first session of a two-part workshop, we'll focus on the essential print materials writers need to promote their work with clarity and purpose. From business cards to bookmarks, you'll learn what matters most, what to include (and what to leave out), and how these tools can open doors for connection and ministry. Whether you're brand new or looking to refine your approach, this session will



2026 Workshops

give you a practical design foundation—and prepare you for Part 2, where you'll begin creating your own materials.

601: Robin Luftig: "Drawing Attention to Your Memoir" – Honeyman Seminar Room

You've made it through a life-changing ordeal. You've written a memoir and are certain your journey's story has the power to impact others. Yet publishers aren't showing any interest. To help draw attention to your story, questions we will discuss:

- Are you the right "who" to write this story
- The why behind which format you choose and seeing its importance
- How to have publishers leaning in for more

602: Ellen Byham: "Next Gen Poetry" – Torrey Parlor

Join us for an interactive time of writing poetry and taking it to a new level. Poets, from beginners to seasoned, are encouraged to change the way they write poetry to "see" poetry. Ellen will lead the class through the process of combining prose and visual art to create a poem print. We will be intentional with our work by creating it to give it away. Participants are encouraged to bring a device to learn and interact as we design. Ellen will be working on the Canva platform.

603: Sarah Scranta: "Creating Print Marketing Materials: Part 2" – Torrey Dining Room

Now it's time to put your ideas into action. In this hands-on session, you'll use your laptop and the design platform Canva to begin creating your own essential marketing materials. With step-by-step guidance and practical tips, you'll design pieces like a business card and bookmark that clearly communicate your message and connect with readers. Come ready to work, experiment, and make real progress. You'll leave inspired and equipped with skills and materials to share your writing.

604: Annette Whipple: "Writing for Children and Teens" - Chapel

Writing for children and teens includes unique challenges as well as joys. We'll discuss book categories, marketable manuscripts, mentor texts, as well as writing opportunities you may not have considered. Attendees will leave with strategies and ideas to write for young people.



2026 Workshops

THURSDAY

701: Annette Whipple “Author Visit” - Chapel

Annette will be holding a live event for the local community. Attendees will be able to observe an author visit and learn from Annette how to effectively present their books.

702: Sue Fairchild: “Getting Social: A Guide to Social Media Platforms” – Torrey Dining Room

There are a plethora of social media platforms out there from the top three—Facebook, Instagram, and X—to more obscure or lesser used platforms like LinkedIn, YouTube, and others. How do you know which one is right for you and your niche? This workshop looks at the top players in the game of social media and utilizes data to determine which platforms you should be focusing on.

703: Lisa Betz: “RX for the Creative Soul” – Honeyman Seminar Room

Creative content is vital for thriving as a writer, but good output requires good input. Learn how to overcome writer’s block and avoid uninspired prose by intentionally keeping your creativity reservoirs filled and guarding against creativity-killing mindsets.

704: Michele Chynoweth: “Lights, Camera, Action: Publicity and Platform” – Torrey Parlor

Publicity, promotions, public speaking, platform...they can be overwhelming for most writers. But marketing your book is more important now than ever before, and stepping into the limelight is crucial to your success. Michele will share tips on how you can be your own publicist, provide training on developing your press release and media kit. She will offer solid advice on becoming a better public speaker, overcoming your fear of public speaking, and tips on getting more publicity by landing TV, radio, and podcast gigs so that you can sell more copies of your book.

801: Michelle Lazurek: “The Power of Collaboration” – Torrey Parlor

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, “two are better than one, for they receive a better return on their labor.” Being a writer can be a lonely profession. But it doesn’t have to be. Authors can benefit from collaboration with other authors in their genre.



2026 Workshops

802: Marti Pieper: "The Accidental Ghostwriter: Lessons in Writing from the Heart"

- Torrey Dining Room

"What kind of ghosts do you write about? Why would you want to do that? How do you get into ghostwriting?" In her years of ghost- and collaborative-writing experience in genres that include memoir, Christian living, and curriculum, Marti's encountered all these questions and more. She shares an honest perspective on her profession, gives insights into the nonfiction ghostwriting process, and explains the joys, challenges, and rewards of writing for others.

803: Zach and Leah Peterson: "The Psalms: Rhythm and Rhyme and Nature in Time"

- Honeyman Seminar Room

David was a master of using the harmonics of nature to enhance his writing, immersing himself in God and His creation. This session will examine the ways the Psalms are filled with rhythm and rhyme and nature.

901: Robin Luftig: "An Author's Legacy: How to Keep Your Work Alive"

- Honeyman Seminar Room

Estate planning for authors is more than just passing on assets; it is about preserving your creative vision and ensuring your literary legacy lives on. In this class we will cover:

- How to make a plan
- The importance in copy write inventory
- How to designate a Literary Executor
- Questions that need answered

902: Ellen Byham: "Devotional Writing OUTside the Box" – Torrey Parlor

We will cover traditional formatting for larger publications and spend most of the class on non-traditional devotional writing for family, friends, and placement on social media. We will go outside the box and explore our creativity through computer graphics and photography to enhance our writing in our visually demanding world.

902: Annette Whipple: "Author Visit Q & A" – Torrey Dining Room

Following Annette Whipple's author visit presentation, explore the ins and outs of the presentation with her and get all of your school visit questions answered..



2026 Workshops

CHALLENGES

Monday Night: Pastor Rollin Howard - Chapel

In Christ's High Priestly Prayer, recorded in John 17, Jesus introduces two concepts that will forever change the life trajectory of each of His disciples. He has marked them with truth and sent them into the world! This is the root of being Salt and Light. As disciples of Jesus Christ who are also gifted communicators, we would do well to personalize this text. The world needs us!

Tuesday Morning: Marsha Hubler: "Are All Your Ducks in a Row?" - Chapel

Do you have what it takes to be a published author? Have you found your "God calling" to write? And write what? Marsha will share with you important landmarks you should seek to achieve as you journey on your way to publication.

Wednesday Morning: Zach Peterson - Chapel

Zach will talk about the search for Truth in a world of Deepfakes—from the perspectives of Nicodemus, Pilate, and the Samaritan woman. He will explain how God uses the Truth from different perspectives and backgrounds to make an impact on others.

Thursday Morning: Rachel Pratt: "Hello, my name is..." - Chapel

In a time when the idea of "identity" seems a more prominent focus than ever, what name tag do you find yourself wearing as you relate to others and serve God through your writing? Do you tend to pick up old name tags to wear? Or do you hide your new name, too afraid to share the mission He has placed on your heart? Together, let's explore who God says you are, and how you can wear your God-given name tag courageously.

Friday Morning: Amy Radford: "Called to Write His Truth" - Chapel

C. S. Lewis aptly states "Don't shine so that others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see HIM." As writers who invest time building platforms and marketing ourselves, the wisdom to maintain the perspective of C. S. Lewis comes from being faithfully grounded in His truth so that we can proclaim His truth to the nations.