

Cascade Christian Writers Fall One-Day Conference 2026

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Location: The River Center, 3000 S. Santiam Hwy, Lebanon, OR 97355

Directors: Amy Earls amy@cascadecrhistianwriters.org & Jesse Rivas ccwjesse@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM:** Check In & Continental Breakfast (pastries, fruit, coffee & tea; Courtyard)
- 9:30 AM:** Opening from CCWC Directors (Auditorium)
- 9:40 AM:** Devotional from Charles Harrel (Auditorium)
- 9:50 AM:** Worship (Auditorium)
- 10:10 AM:** Keynote Message from Bob Welch (Auditorium)
- 11:10 AM:** Workshop #1 (see Workshop Details below for locations)
- 12:00 PM:** Lunch (Courtyard. Bring your own; outside options within walking distance)
- 12:45 PM:** Workshop #2 (see Workshop Details below for locations)
- 2:00 PM:** A Word from CCW President Julie Bonn Blank (Auditorium)
- 2:15 PM:** Keynote Message from Bob Welch (Auditorium)
- 3:10 PM:** Workshop #3 (see Workshop Details below for locations)
- 4:00 PM:** Bookstore (Courtyard)
- 4:30 PM:** End of conference

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Workshop #1

- A Cup of Soup—Writing for Anthologies—Heidi Gaul (River Youth Room)
- How to Record Your Own Audiobook—Amy Earls (Middle School Room)
- Writing in Place—Tracee Heskett (Salmon Room)
- Small Stories, Big Readership: Building a Series with 90-Minute Reads—Christina Suzann Nelson (Chinook Room)

Workshop #2

- What C.S. Lewis Taught Me About Writing—Terry Glaspey (Chinook Room)
- From the Heart: Write Profound and Poignant Poetry—Jennifer Anne F. Messing (Salmon Room)
- Stuck in the Middle with You: How to Complete Those Unfinished Projects Before They Drive You Mad—Heidi Gaul (River Youth Room)
- The Author's Journey—It Begins with a Dream—Dawn Shipman (Middle School Room)

Workshop #3

- How to Present a Dynamic Workshop—Tracie Heskett (Salmon Room)
- What Jane Austen Taught Me About Writing—Terry Glaspey (River Youth Room)
- Writing Fantasy for the Christian Author—Dawn Shipman (Middle School Room)
- Missional Lead Magnets: Grow Your Email List Without Giving Away a Whole Book—Jesse Rivas (Chinook Room)

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Prayer Room will be available in the Willamette Room.
- A water station is available near the restrooms. Please bring your water bottle.
- Pastries and fruit will be served in the morning, cookies in the afternoon, with coffee and tea available all day. All food and beverages will be in the Courtyard.
- Appointments with a mentor, literary agent, or editor can be made prior to the conference: <https://tidycal.com/ccwc>.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

A Cup of Soup—Writing for Anthologies – Heidi Gaul

Bring your funniest, sweetest, and most heartfelt moments to the table. In “A Cup of Soup,” longtime *Chicken Soup for the Soul* writer Heidi Gaul shows you how to stir ordinary experiences into irresistible essays editors love. Expect laughter, inspiration, and a recipe for publication-ready storytelling.

How to Record Your Own Audiobook – Amy Earls

Discover the basics of recording your own audiobook with confidence. This workshop covers essential equipment, recording setup, vocal performance, editing basics, and common mistakes to avoid. Whether you’re an indie author preparing to narrate your book or simply curious about the process, you’ll learn practical steps for producing a polished audiobook listeners will enjoy.

Writing in Place – Tracie Heskett

Writers often seek to write in the elusive “zone.” Discover what it means to write from a sense of place as Tracie shares her experience as a Writer in Residence participant. Learn tips to create your own “residence” writing experience.

Small Stories, Big Readership: Building a Series with 90-Minute Reads – Christina Suzann Nelson

A shorter book still needs a complete story, memorable characters, emotional depth, and a reason for readers to come back. In this practical workshop, Christina Suzann Nelson shows writers how to turn a focused story idea into a satisfying short read—and how to think beyond one book toward a sustainable series.

Writers will learn how to create a compelling hook, structure a compact plot, use setting and recurring characters to build momentum, and avoid the most common mistakes that make short fiction feel rushed or incomplete. Come with a story idea; leave with a framework for a short read that can stand alone while opening the door to more.

What C.S. Lewis Taught Me About Writing – Terry Glaspey

This workshop looks to one of the finest Christian communicators to explore practical ways to improve your own writing and become a more effective communicator of the gospel. His example is one both fiction and nonfiction writers can learn much from. The talk is enriched by insights from the author’s biography of C.S. Lewis.

From the Heart: Write Profound and Poignant Poetry – Jennifer Anne F. Messing

Explore what poems are and where they originate. Learn how poets can find their unique voice and use journaling techniques to awaken and ignite creativity. Discuss poetic techniques including similes, metaphors, rhyme, imagery, and alliteration. Drawing from life experiences and the things one deeply

loves, discover ways to craft meaningful poems that stir hearts and touch readers. Jennifer Anne will also cover self-editing, proper submission format, entering contests, and submitting to US-based and international magazines and book compilations.

Stuck in the Middle with You: How to Complete Those Unfinished Projects Before They Drive You Mad – Heidi Gaul

If your hard drive looks like a museum of noble writing intentions, this workshop is your intervention. Join Heidi Gaul for a humorous, hope-filled session on taming the middle, outsmarting procrastination, and turning “someday” manuscripts into completed, celebratory victories.

The Author’s Journey—It Begins with a Dream – Dawn Shipman

God uses our earliest dreams and experiences to lead us in the way He planned for us from the beginning. Our life is as much an unfolding story as anything we write. Looking closely at Joseph’s story in Genesis, this workshop will be aimed particularly at the Christian writer.

How to Present a Dynamic Workshop – Tracie Heskett

Keynote speakers inspire, but conference workshops provide valuable insight into the nuts and bolts of the writing craft. In this workshop we’ll discuss how to engage your audience and help them remember and apply your great content. This workshop will cover interactive ways to present information and how to get people thinking about what they are learning.

What Jane Austen Taught Me About Writing – Terry Glaspey

In this workshop we will examine the life and work of the beloved author to gather practical and inspiring insights about becoming a better writer and coping with the challenges of the writing life. The talk is enriched by insights from the author’s biography of Jane Austen.

Writing Fantasy for the Christian Author – Dawn Shipman

An honest review of both the highs and (sometimes) lows of attempting to publish fantasy in the Christian market and room in the secular world for “clean” fantasy. Using specific examples, we’ll look closely at authors in both the Christian and general market and discuss how to choose between the two.

Missional Lead Magnets: Grow Your Email List Without Giving Away a Whole Book – Jesse Rivas

You’ve probably heard that authors need an email list, but how do you actually get people to join it? In this practical workshop, you’ll learn what a lead magnet is, why it can be such an effective tool for growing your audience, and how to use one to turn interested readers into newsletter subscribers.

We’ll also explore a different approach to the traditional reader magnet. Instead of giving away an entire book, you’ll learn how to create a Missional Lead Magnet, a unique resource that combines your writing, your message, and the mission behind what you do. You’ll leave with ideas for creating your own magnet and practical ways to use it to grow your email list and build meaningful connections with readers.

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FACILITY MAP

