THURSDAY, APRIL 12

8am
Registration Desk opens
The Registration Desk will be located temporarily in the Fireside Room on Thursday morning.

9am
{etc} Warm-Up Yoga
JENNY SHEFFER-STEvens
Prime body, mind, and imagination for the Festival with this 90-minute class that is suitable for all experience levels and bodies. We'll practice yoga to warm, stretch, and release key muscle groups, explore the ways movement encourages creative flow, and discover how breath acts as the interface between body and imagination. We'll incorporate vocal release, verbal and nonverbal forms of communication, visceral exploration of text, and conclude with deep relaxation.
Note: This practice is 90 minutes and lasts from 9–10:30am. You'll need to bring a yoga mat (a limited number of extra mats will be available for those who don't have one with them), a large towel, comfortable clothes you can move in, pen, and paper. Suggested items include: a change of clothes and a freshen-up kit. Showers and lockers rooms are also available in the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex.

9:30am
{writing workshop} Attention + Spirit
JUDITH HOUGEN
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.

{writing workshop} Making Your Characters Their Own People
MARJORIE MADDOX
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.

{writing workshop} Self-Editing to Take Your Writing to the Next Level
ERIN BARTELS
All great writers have one thing in common: they rewrite—sometimes dozens or even hundreds of times—until their work is the best it can be. But in a culture of instant gratification and do-it-yourself publishing, the kind of slow, dedicated tweaking that is a necessary part of writing is often avoided. Learn how: to do an effective, targeted revision; to edit on sentence, paragraph, and chapter level; rewriting can shape your voice; planning on rewriting frees you to finish a first draft; and more.
Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.
{etc} Chapbook Construction for Poets, Essayists, and Short Story Writers
ROBERT HUDSON
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 9:30–11:30am.

10am
{etc} Vamos a Adorarlo
CARLOS COLÓN
Sounds of Latino worship led by Carlos Colón for the Calvin community and Festivalgoers. This daily chapel service lasts 20 minutes.

10:30am
{reading workshop} Sacred Reading, Sacred Writing: Practicing Poetry as Prayer
KATHERINE WILLIS PERSHEY
Inspired by the rich tradition of contemplative practices, workshop participants will engage in a series of reading and writing exercises designed to nurture creativity, awaken spirituality, and deepen engagement with both the written word and the Word-made-flesh.

12pm
{keynote} Saying Yes to the Writerly Life
KWAME ALEXANDER
An energetic ambassador to folks around the world on behalf of the power of books and poetry to empower young people, Kwame Alexander shares a bit of conversation, a dash of storytelling, and a splash of performance promoting writing and reading as a way of life.

1:45pm
{writing workshop} Navigating Faith and Religion in Writing
NATASHIA DEÓN
Natashia Deón explores how a writer can approach personal religious beliefs or those of others while writing for general audiences. She explains how to show spiritual feeling rather than just telling the reader about it, how to use detail to evoke spiritual spaces, and how to demonstrate what religion means to a character without including the entire history of the religion. She also considers whether faith or lack of faith affects the stories writers choose to tell and how to navigate real or imagined religious restrictions on creative writing.

{reading} A Reading: Anya Silver
Anya Silver’s four books of poetry actively explore how faith can be threatened, re-wrought, and deepened while living with metastatic breast cancer. Through fairy tales, ekphrastic poems, and meditations on memory, history, and family, Anya seeks to create meaning and wholeness out of unknowingness, wrestling belief in an all-loving God from the daily fear and trauma of illness. Anya reads from her book and offers audience
members the opportunity to share their own experiences of living with chronic or terminal illness, and the ways in which their lives have been impacted by their faith and writing.

*Introduced by Otto Selles, Calvin College French Department*

**{solo} The Death and Resurrection of Sacred Speech**  
**JONATHAN MERRITT**  
According to a new study, sacred words and spiritual conversations are in rapid decline among Americans. This matters because, as the latest linguistic research demonstrates, the words we use impact our emotions and thought patterns. But hope is not lost. Jonathan Merritt demonstrates how lovers of sacred speech can “learn to speak God from scratch” and use their words to ignite a rhetorical revolution, reviving the vocabulary of faith for generations to come.

*Introduced by Gwyneth Findlay, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*

**{solo} The Enduring Appeal of Cults**  
**ANBARA SALAM**  
The success of novels like *The Girls, Survivor, Gather the Daughters*, and *The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly* demonstrate that fiction readers still have a healthy—or unhealthy—interest in cults. Why do people find cults so fascinating? Anbara Salam, who earned a PhD in Apocalyptic prophecy belief while writing a novel featuring a cult, explores what popular fiction about cults reveals about our own relationship with the uncanny valley of faith.

*Introduced by Sarah Bass, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*

**{solo} Finding God (and Poetry) in All Things**  
**MARGARITA PINTADO**  
In her poetry, Margarita Pintado searches for instances in which beauty, mystery, and meaning unexpectedly coincide to reveal the poetic in the everyday. How can we learn to see the invisible, to find miracles in the mundane, to find solace where we are? How can poetry, by turning the familiar into something foreign and vice versa, bring us closer to God, the world, and ourselves? In this talk she shares some of her insights into poetry’s power to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

*Introduced by Liz Page Vrooman, Calvin College Center for Student Success*

**{panel} Publicity Confidential: What Authors and Publicists Wish Each Other Knew**  
**ROBIN BARNETT, CATHLEEN FALSANI, JENNIFER GRANT, KELLY HUGHES, CARYN RIVADENEIRA**  
What’s the difference between marketing and publicity? What are best practices for making the most of the publicity-marketing one-two punch? What are the limits of what a publicist can do—and what an author can do—to promote a book effectively? How can both authors and publicists manage each other’s expectations well? Seasoned publicists and authors address these questions and share horror stories, happy endings, and more.
**What Writers Can Learn from Flannery O’Connor’s Prayer Journal**

JILL PELÁEZ BAUMGAERTNER, ANGELA ALAIMO O’DONNELL, RALPH C. WOOD

Flannery O’Connor kept a prayer journal when at the Iowa School for Writers, in which she wrote, “Please let Christian principles permeate my writing and please let there be enough of my writing (published) for Christian principles to permeate.” Three writers and scholars of O’Connor’s work discuss her journal and its fascinating look into the complexities a Christian writer faces—wanting to write to the glory of God but also craving an admiring audience for one’s efforts. Humility and pride stand side by side in the writer’s efforts. What is the proper response for the writer attempting this balancing act?

**Beg/Steal/Borrow—Poetry & Experimental Translation**

MATTHEW LANDRUM

Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 1:45–3:45pm.

**Breaking Out the Gate: Getting a Good Start to Your Story**

JACLYN DWYER

Pre-registration required. Note: Registered Festivalgoers should bring the first 500 words of a short story, flash fiction, or novel in progress to fully participate in the workshop.

**3:15pm**

**A Conversation with Kwame Alexander and Nate Marshall: Hip-Hop, Poetry, and What’s Next**

Two writers shaped by spoken word and oral culture discuss rhythm, publishing, and basketball.

*Interviewed by Billy Mark*

**A Prisoner and a Purpose**

BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY

Early on in her career, journalist Barbara Bradley Hagerty knew the types of stories that drew her—stories of injustice, of people wrongly convicted or trapped in a legal system that can be blind to the truth. At NPR and other news outlets, she touched on those stories now and again, until she investigated the murder conviction of Ben Spencer in a recent *Atlantic* article. In her talk, she weaves the story of Ben Spencer—a man who has spent the past 30 years in a Texas prison for a crime he may not have committed—into the story of her own search for, and discovery of, a worthy purpose in life.

*Introduced by Christina Edmondson, Calvin College, Intercultural Student Development*

**Silence and Beauty in the Sister Books of Shusaku Endo and Makoto Fujimura**

SHANN RAY

Makoto Fujimura’s explication of the novel *Silence* by Shusaku Endo in his own book *Silence and Beauty* sets the stage for a discussion of the soul of Christ, the *Anima Christi*, at work in the world. Participants engage themes of humility vs. self-reliance,
the Judas shadow in mystical life, and the restorative beauty of Christ in the silent wake of American and global genocidal amnesia.

{reading workshop} Giving and Receiving Gracious Feedback
D. S. LEITER
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 3:15–5:15pm.

{reading} A Reading: Marie Howe
Introduced by Susan Blackwell Ramsey

{solo} Writing through Devotion and Darkness
MACY HALFORD
“I am terrified,” wrote Sylvia Plath, “of this dark thing / That sleeps within me.” Writing is an act of bringing light. But how can we write when our minds are cluttered and confused, when the darkness seems to lie within? Drawing on her recent book about the beloved evangelical daily devotional My Utmost for His Highest, Macy Halford explores creativity as an act of devotion, focusing on how a daily practice can transform the drudgery and difficulty that often attend writing into “a glorious struggle.”
Introduced by Debra Rienstra, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

{solo} A Reporter’s Notebook: Writing from the Holy Land
EMMA GREEN
Jerusalem is one of the most faith-filled places in the world—a religion reporter’s dream, but also a potential minefield of controversy. Political issues in Israel are perennially reoccurring; narratives about identity, claims to the land, and historical sins loom large. Emma Green explores the challenges of reporting on the land that is so holy to so many people and addresses some of the biases and foibles of media coverage in this little stretch of desert. She talks about the differences in reporting on religion in the United States and abroad, and how she fills her notebooks in this complex— never boring!—reporting environment.
Introduced by Lyz Lenz, The Rumpus

{solo} Playfulness, Creativity, and Bravery
JENNIFER TRAFTON
Jennifer Trafton discusses the importance of playfulness in creativity as a means of overcoming fear and inhibition in both children and adults, using examples from her creative writing classes and workshops. She talks about how her own struggles with fear as a writer and artist and her long, rocky journey towards publication, mirrored in her latest novel Henry and the Chalk Dragon. Of special interest to parents and educators, but relevant to anyone who needs to rediscover their childlike love for creative play.
Introduced by Donald Hettinga, Calvin College English Department

{panel} Whose Story Is It Anyway? When Ministers Write Memoirs
SUSAN BALLER-SHEPARD, RUTH EVERHART, MARY S. HULST, BARBARA MELOSH, CAROL HOWARD MERRITT
Memoirists who are ministers face particular ethical questions as they tell stories of congregational life and share personal stories that push the boundaries of what a leader
ordinarily discloses. But these underlying questions are shared by all who write memoir. Whose story is it, anyway, and what are the writer’s responsibilities to those who share their stories? In this panel, clergymen discuss navigating these lines in the context of their pastoral vocation.

{panel} Making Space: The Literary Journal as Witness
DANIEL BOWMAN, ANGELA DOLL CARLSON, NATHANIEL LEE HANSEN, KATIE MANNING, BRIANNA VAN DYKE
Small journals have a unique role in the literary ecosystem, building readers by cultivating and publishing enduring work. In this panel, four editors of small magazines discuss the role of the literary journal in the life of readers of faith, the push and pull of the “market” versus the “craft,” and how to make space for both spiritual writers and spiritual readers.

4:30pm
{Solo} Holding Space, Creating Space: A Southern Baptist Embraces Daoism
AFAA M. WEAVER
In 1973, Afaa Weaver began reading the Dao De Jing, five years later he began practicing Taijiquan, and 29 years later he began a daily practice of Daoist sitting meditation. This integrative practice now constitutes the core of his faith, and he discusses his growing awareness of its real and potential benefits for his personal development and creative development as a poet.
*Introduced by Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Earlham School of Religion*

{Panel} The Risks of Writing on Race— and the Obligation to Continue
SHANNON DINGLE, DOROTHY LITTELL GRECO, CAROLINA HINOJOSA-CISNEROS, CARA MEREDITH
Do white writers have an obligation to use their influence and privilege to serve as allies to people of color? These writers argue yes, despite the fact that painful mistakes are inevitable. They discuss the personal cost, what it means to serve with an open and humble heart, and how to respond when things get ugly.

{Solo} What’s a Peacebuilder?
ABIGAIL DISNEY
Along with Gini Reticker, Abigail Disney founded Fork Films in 2007 to create and support media that makes an important societal contribution, with a particular emphasis on projects that bring women’s voices to the forefront. She discusses her work on the award-winning documentaries Pray the Devil Back to Hell and The Armor of Light and explores what it might look like to build peace through storytelling.
*Introduced by Peter Ford, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*

{Writing workshop} Becoming a Successful Blogger without Selling Your Soul
JONATHAN MERRITT
You believe in your ideas, but how do you break through the noise and deliver those ideas to a wider audience? Jonathan Merritt knows this struggle well and has spent the
last decade developing and testing a simple path to become a successful blogger that any writer can implement. He shares how to expand readership and build a platform while avoiding the common pitfalls of sensationalism and shameless self-promotion. *Introduced by Julia Mason, Calvin College English Department*

{interview} A Conversation with Natasha Deón and Suzanne M. Wolfe: Walking the Line between Fact and Fiction in Historical Novels
Natasha Deón and Suzanne M. Wolfe discuss writing novels based on real people and events, what liberties to take and when, and why stories rooted in history are so compelling. *Interviewed by Marlys Admiraal, Calvin College English Department*

{solo} Queja con Alas: A Lament with Wings
CARLOS COLÓN
Carlos Colón, a Salvadoran-American composer, reflects on how lament, as found in traditional prayers and poetry, gives us language and raw material to express anger and hope. Carlos takes Salvadoran poetry as a point of departure to guide us through the painful history of his resilient people, and he envisions a future where Salvadorans can partner with the community of nations to emerge forever from the depths of a legacy of oppression and violence. *Introduced by Linda Naranjo-Huebl, Calvin College English Department*

{solo} Liturgy Where the Prayer Books Ends
LAURA EVERETT
After her car died, pastor and author Laura Everett joined the ranks of Boston’s cyclists, many of them non-religious or defiantly anti-religious. Within this community, a “ghost bike” is a public memorial where a cyclist has been killed, and their dedications are communal practices of joy and grief beyond the scope of prayer books. Laura explores how you deduce a liturgy and write faithfully and respectfully about the spiritual practices of others, even those who don’t consider themselves spiritual. *Introduced by Emily Ulmer, Western Theological Seminary*

{panel} The Academy and the Art of Religious Biography
DAVID BRATT, HEATH W. CARTER, ELESHA J. COFFMAN, KRISTIN KOBES DU MEZ, NANCY KOESTER, GEORGE MARSDEN, ANNE BLUE WILLS
Religious biographies are immensely popular among both readers and writers of all stripes. This panel brings together accomplished historians and editors who publish for both the academy and lay readers. They discuss accessible research methods that can enhance all kinds of writing projects, the art of crafting spiritual biographies, and the spiritual rewards of reading and writing about history.

{panel} Writing through Doubt: Quieting the Voices That Say You Can’t Do This
CATHERINE KNEPPER, YASMINA DIN MADDEN, KALI VANBAALE, JENNIFER WILSON
Who are we to write? Why have we been called? How do you claim time for a creative pursuit in today’s world? From early draft, to revision, to the publishing process, the
hard work of writing can create debilitating self doubt—doubt about voice, audience, authenticity, the merit of the work, even the right to call oneself a writer. This panel of working authors offers strategies for fear of submitting, understanding peer critique, finding writing community, and creating a balance between the real world and the creative life—all vital tools to help writers combat doubt.

7:30pm
{music} What We Need Is Here: An Evening of Song and Spoken Words with Parker J. Palmer and Carrie Newcomer
We live in hard times, and hope is sometimes hard to come by. But by faith and the evidence of our own eyes, we know that “what we need is here” (to steal a line from Wendell Berry). In a time when it’s easy to feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or cynical, Carrie, Parker, and pianist Gary Walters offer a journey of mind and spirit characterized by thoughtfulness, realism, vulnerability, good humor, and hope.
FRIDAY, APRIL 13

8am
{writing workshop} Shaping Family History in Compelling Stories
ANNETTE GENDLER
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they’d like.

{writing workshop} Short Story Lab
HUGH COOK
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they’d like.

8:30am
{solo} Choosing Us
DEIDRA RIGGS
How do we put our focus on self-preservation aside and make the first move toward reconciliation? Deidra Riggs offers space to explore the choices we make as writers and readers—to do, to speak, to keep silent, to endure, to forgive, or not to forgive. What do our choices say to us, and to others, about what we believe about one another? Deidra reveals the walls we’ve built, the lines we’ve drawn, the grudges we hold, and the doors we’ve closed which perpetuate our perceived polarity and divisiveness. We can choose to stay where we are, or we can choose to try something different.
Introduced by Elisha Marr, Calvin College Sociology and Social Work Department

{interview} A Conversation with John Wilson and Macy Halford: The State of the Evangelical Mind
Historian Mark Noll helped launch Books & Culture in 1995, the year after his landmark book The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind was released. And for the next 21 years, under the editorial guidance of John Wilson, the bimonthly review engaged arts and culture from a Christian perspective and testified to many of a new era of evangelical intellectual vigor. Now, almost two years after the last issue of Books & Culture was published, John Wilson and Macy Halford reflect on the current state of the evangelical mind, the fault lines around evangelical identity, and the faithful arts and culture criticism they find compelling now.
Interviewed by Heath W. Carter, Valparaiso University

{solo} On Writing and Mindfulness
DINTY W. MOORE
Writers must develop the art of seeing with fresh eyes, thinking with open minds, searching the nooks and crannies of any subject to find what has not yet been explored, or what might be explored further to shed original light. Otherwise, we’re just playing with language, and though language is a wonderful gift, it is not the goal. Dinty W. Moore explores how writers can nurture the habit of mindfulness in thought and observation, rather than seeing or hearing only what’s on the surface or only what we expect to see and hear.
Introduced by Beth Peterson, Grand Valley State University
A Conversation with Afaa M. Weaver
Afaa M. Weaver discusses how his 15 years of writing poetry at night while working in a factory laid the foundation for subsequent decades as a professor and celebrated writer, the spiritual practices that have sustained him through tragedy, and the relationship between thinking and doing.

Interviewed by Sarina Gruver Moore, Grove City College

On Finding and Growing Ideas for Fiction
SHAWN SMUCKER
Christian publishing needs new and exciting voices who are able to write outside the currently marketed boundaries. But fresh ideas for novels or short stories sometimes seem hard to come by. In this workshop each attendee cultivates their own ideas for fiction writing by beginning with character creation and then working through setting, conflict, and the formation of a plot.

How to Conduct Interviews That Enhance Your Stories
DEAN NELSON
Whether you’re writing fiction or nonfiction, sometimes you need someone else’s perspective in order to make your stories more accurate and authentic. How do you get them to talk to you? How do you get past clichés and one-word answers? How do you capture a person’s voice? How do you get over your own insecurity and shyness? A seasoned journalist guides you into getting the best information out of even the most inexperienced, reluctant, or too-talkative sources.

Writing and Revising Religious Poetry and Prose
MIRIAM BAT-AMI, JANET RUTH HELLER
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 8:30–10:30am.

Against Scarcity: Generosity and Writing Communities
JESSICA GOUDEAU, STINA KIELSMEIER-COOK, D. L. MAYFIELD, KELLEY NIKONDEHA, AMY PETERSON, CHRISTIANA N. PETERSON
Four years ago, the panelists were mostly unpublished writers who admired each other’s work. They started a writing group over email, editing each other’s work each month; then they started talking daily via an app; finally, they met in-person at the 2014 Festival. Since then, three have published books and two have contracts. They have been agents and editors for each other, shared connections and ideas, and accomplished things they never would have accomplished alone. Here they discuss their experience and offer advice for finding vital forms of creative community.

Pocket Journals
CHRISTINE DARRAGH
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 8:30–10:30am.
Writing as Action, Writing as Contemplation: Interacting with Thomas Merton
BEN BRAZIL, LYNN DOMINA, DAVE HARRITY, SOPHRONIA SCOTT
As a poet, essayist, and memoirist, Thomas Merton described the struggles and rewards of a contemplative life, yet he also remained engaged with the challenges of his time. Modern writers of faith face similar challenges, for the writing life requires similar commitments to the contemplative life, yet we are nearly always writing to and for someone else—God, the community, readers not yet born. Panelists discuss how Merton influences, cautions, encourages, intimidates, and challenges them.

Crossing Cultures: Among Others, Embracing Others
AARON BROWN, SUSANNA CHILDRESS, NATASHA OLADOKUN, SHANN RAY
What happens when, as an outsider, you are welcomed into and become a part of a community? At the same time, what are the slippages and breaking points that separate you from that community? How do you accurately and lovingly represent the community in writing? In this panel, writers who have grown up in varied cultural contexts—Native American reservations, the Philippines, Chad, and the Nigerian diaspora—share their opinions on what it means to write from a place of solidarity and of difference and discuss the responsibility as writers of faith to embrace and understand the other.

10am
Too Much to Ask: A Celebration of Luci Shaw
LESLEY LEYLAND FIELDS, LUCI SHAW, AND FRIENDS
A vital force in faithful literary publishing for more than a half century, Luci Shaw’s poems, essays, editorial guidance, and friendship have left an indelible mark on countless readers and writers. In this hour, several readers offer their own stories of how a poem she wrote changed their lives, interspersed with Luci reading these poems. Luci offers concluding remarks, including a reading from her forthcoming collection of poetry and its opening essay, “On Poets and Prophets.”

Religious Readers and Sexually Transgressive Fiction: “What Does Your Husband Think?”
JAMIE QUATRO
Jamie Quatro is often asked—especially by southern, “religious” readers—“What does your husband think about your work?” What inherently sexist assumptions are buried in this question? Why is art that depicts illicit sexual desire offensive, specifically, to the church? Does Matthew 5’s “thinking = doing” apply to the reading and writing of fiction? Jamie explores these questions in the context of the current socio-political polarization in America, in which secular readers find serious treatment of Christian themes ludicrous, while readers on the “evangelical” right find explicit sexual content related to spirituality obscene, even blasphemous.

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Introduces by Mara Naselli
{reading} A Reading: Nate Marshall
Nate Marshall reads from his poetry collection, *Wild Hundreds.*
*Introduced by Michelle Loyd Paige, Calvin College Office of the President*

{interview} A Conversation with Abigail Disney and Dorothy Fortenberry
In the era of #MeToo and Time’s Up, these are clearly interesting times in Hollywood. Producer Abigail Disney and screenwriter Dorothy Fortenberry discuss faith, film, and feminism.
*Interviewed by Jennifer L. Holberg, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*

{interview} A Conversation with Parker J. Palmer and Carrie Newcomer: On Art and Activism
Parker J. Palmer and Carrie Newcomer discuss art as a potent force for social change, how creative collaboration sustains them, and what activists need to know now more than ever.
*Interviewed by Shirley Hershey Showalter*

{solo} Godsong Resung: A Tour of the Bhagavad-Gita
AMIT MAJMUDAR
Poet and novelist Amit Majmudar has created a verse translation of the ancient Indian scripture into living American English that is painstakingly close to the original Sanskrit. In this talk, Majmudar walks his listeners through the Gita from beginning to end. Selections from his new translation illuminate the setting, drama, and philosophy of this profound poem of friendship and existential questioning.
*Introduced by Cheryl K. Brandsen, Calvin College Office of the Provost*

{interview} A Conversation with Barbara Bradley Hagerty and Tony Norman
Two journalists who’ve seen their industry undergo radical transformation over the last three decades talk about their own careers’ twists and turns, how new technology does and doesn’t affect the fundamentals of good writing and storytelling, and the future of the Fourth Estate.
*Interviewed by Jesse Holcomb, Calvin College English Department*

{writing workshop} The Clever Researcher: Finding and Integrating Source Material without Sounding Like an Academic
WENDY BILEN
We tend to think of research as the work of scientists or scholars, but sources can significantly strengthen our creative writing. Infusing prose with researched detail creates depth and credibility and enriches narrative. This process involves moving beyond critical dates and facts to contextual elements such as weather or social norms. Deduction, documents such as military records and old maps can inform and even help craft our narratives. This workshop explores where to look for information, how to find unexpected nuggets in traditional sources, and how to incorporate material with a creative, non-academic touch.
Freelancing Isn’t Free: How to Get Paid to Write
DORCAS CHENG-TOZUN, ED CYZEWSKI, EDWARD GILBREATH, CARA MEREDITH, KATE SHELLNUTT
Many writers dream of getting paid to write, but find themselves stuck writing blog posts, guest posts, and other articles that “pay” in social media numbers without a clear path toward paid writing work. By sharing personal stories and experiences, a diverse panel of seasoned writers, authors, and editors provide helpful tips to take writing to the next level through editing, blogging, writing articles for magazines, publishing books, and more.

Writing for Our Lives
MARLENA PROPER GRAVES, LISA SHARON HARPER, KATHY KHANG
Some industry professionals advise authors against writing about polarizing social issues or using social media to express political opinions. Experts fear it will affect writers’ platforms—costing authors readers and sales. In this session, three writers count their personal costs for speaking out and explore the sometimes-fraught relationships between book sales, platforms, and moral conviction.

11:30am
Interview} A Conversation with Edwidge Danticat
Edwidge Danticat talks about grappling with memory, mothers and daughters, politics and powers, religions, Haiti— and maybe spirits, love, and death. In other words, her life and stories.
*Interviewed by Dean Ward, Calvin College English Department Emeritus*

Solo} Reading, Writing, and the Art of Preaching
FLEMMING RUTLEDGE
Reading, especially literary fiction, is vital to writing good sermons. Fleming Rutledge discusses the writers who have influenced her own preaching, the beauty and power of well-constructed sentences, and why theologians must love books.
*Introduced by Kristine Johnson, Calvin College English Department*

Interview} A Conversation with Marie Howe and Pádraig Ó Tuama: Poetry and the Body Politic
“Language is almost all we have left of action in the modern world,” observes Marie Howe. She and Pádraig Ó Tuama discuss the political possibilities of poetry: to bear witness, to inspire the moral imagination, and to provide perspective on our neighbors’ lives and the broader world.
*Interviewed by Micah Lott, Boston College*

Writing workshop} Examining the Space of the Page in Your Poems
ROB STEPHENS
*Pre-registration required.*
**Interview** A Conversation with Emma Green and Sarah Pulliam Bailey
Reporters covering the “God beat” have never been busier. Emma Green and Sarah Pulliam Bailey discuss why most news stories are really religion stories, what interviews took them by surprise, and why women have become so prominent in the field.
*Interviewed by Jana Riess, Religion News Service*

**Solo** Come and Go with Me
WALT WANGERIN JR.
After a serious cancer diagnosis, Walt Wangerin has thought about and written about the time before the end of life. Here he tells the story of his experience.
*Introduced by Elizabeth A. Vander Lei, Calvin College Office of the Provost*

**Panel** Family Business: The Problems and Possibilities of Writing about Our Kids’ Lives
BETH ADAMS, AMY JULIA BECKER, MICHA BOYETT, GRACE JI-SUN KIM
Our lives, and our children’s, intersect. But what stories are “mine” to tell, and what stories belong to them alone? In what ways can telling our family stories, including anecdotes about our children, harm them? In what ways might it benefit them? What will our kids think when they read about themselves later on in life? How do we protect them and write about them at the same time? Panelists address both practical concerns and philosophical questions about how to welcome strangers into our family’s stories while also protecting the privacy of our children.

**Reading** A Reading: Dave Harrity
*Introduced by Jake Schepers, University of Notre Dame*

**Panel** Truth Has Stumbled in the Streets: Writing Faithfully about Social Issues
KIMBERLY BURGE, MADELEINE MYSKO, KATHLEEN O’TOOLE
The prophet Jeremiah said that when truth stumbles in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Writing from Mississippi during the Civil Rights era, Eudora Welty pondered a question, “Must the novelist crusade?” When writers take up social and political issues, how do we aim to create art rather than propaganda? A narrative journalist, a novelist, and a poet grapple with the tension between conviction and proselytizing, frankly discussing times when they felt they succeeded as well as times when fear of stumbling made the work more difficult—and crucial.

**Panel** The Ethics of Going Dark in Middle-Grade Literature
KAREN COATS, NIKKI GRIMES, ALEXANDRIA LAFAYE
Representing the emotional experience of loss children feel as they transition into early adolescence, either directly or through metaphor, can be challenging for writers. Especially for writers exploring the redemptive possibilities—and sometimes negative outcomes—of ordinary or extraordinary trauma and hardship, honesty requires avoiding simplistic resolutions. In this panel, two award-winning authors and a literary critic discuss the ethics and craft of writing honest yet redemptive fiction for middle grades.
{panel} Writing about Animals with the Respect They Deserve
LONNIE HULL DUPONT, SUSY FLORY, ALISON HODGSON, KAREN SWALLOW PRIOR
The animals we love are either cute, smart, or super intuitive, right? But what if they are none of the above? This panel delves into the joys and pitfalls of writing about the creatures who share our lives; who have their own personalities, wants, desires, and opinions; and who are increasingly being perceived as the unique and valuable sentient beings they truly are.

12:45pm
{lunch forum} The Art and Wonder of Writing and Marketing for Children and Teens
ANNETTE BOURLAND, LORIE LANGDON, GLENYS NELLIST
Have you ever wanted to write a children’s picture book? Has YA fiction captured your imagination and writing zeal? It takes a special kind of writer to create stories (and intrigue!) for children and young adults. Writing for them requires not only a degree of child-brain and kid-memory, but a certain skill set and calling. In our time together, Zondervan publisher Annette Bourland will introduce two dynamic writers. Glenys Nellist will share how she made her picture-book writing dream a reality and some effective marketing lessons she’s learned along the way. Then, best-selling author Lorie Langdon will share how a story she’s dreamed of for years became a reality and how dynamic marketing goes hand-in-hand with great content. The first 10 attendees who arrive to the forum will receive a signed copy of either Olivia Twist by Lorie Langdon or Love Letters from God by Glenys Nellist.
Sponsored by Zondervan

{lunch forum} How to Write—and Live—When the World Is Burning
SARAH ARTHUR, KYLE DAVID BENNETT, CHRISTINA JASKO, ERIN F. WASINGER
Is it possible to chase the writing life and also care about your neighbor? Can you be a parent and still pursue social justice? Join Sarah Arthur and Erin F. Wasinger, coauthors of The Year of Small Things: Radical Faith for the Rest of Us, and Kyle David Bennett, author of Practices of Love: Spiritual Disciplines for the Life of the World, for a panel discussion on how writing can fit with the call to follow Jesus in the world. The first 100 people will receive a complimentary copy of The Year of Small Things!
Sponsored by Brazos Press

{lunch forum} The Creative and Spiritual Possibilities of Making Lists
MARILYN MCENTYRE
At this luncheon gathering you’ll be invited to try out some of the various approaches to list-making that can open wide avenues of reflection. We’ll talk about how list-making can allow you to surprise yourself into seeing problems or possibilities from new angles and how it can help you move toward greater specificity in planning, self-awareness, and prayer. We’ll look at how lists can “grow up” to be poems, how they become tables of contents for books you haven’t written yet, and how they may deepen appreciation of people you care about.
Sponsored by the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company
Still Evangelical in the Age of #MeToo?”
KATELYN BEATY, KATHY KHANG, KAREN SWALLOW PRIOR, DEIDRA RIGGS, SANDRA MARIA VAN OPSTAL
What does it mean to call yourself an evangelical in the wake of the 2016 election? Does the word still hold meaning and value? Is it repulsive or can it be redeemed?
InterVarsity Press recently released Still Evangelical? in which essayists tackle these questions, exploring the genesis of the word and what the future could possibly hold.
This lunch forum takes those questions a step further and asks, what does it mean to be evangelical and female in 2018? Join us for a brief panel discussion with women who have been both thoughtful and vocal on the topic of evangelicalism today and who will examine this question in light of political movements in the United States, the church’s response to #MeToo, and current trends in evangelicalism.
Sponsored by InterVarsity Press

2pm
The Pre-Dawn Birds: Some Thoughts on Faith & Writing
JOY WILLIAMS
Introduced by Jamie Quatro

Poems and Stories That Save
PÁDRAIG Ó TUAMA
Poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama explores a spirituality of language and story that faces conflict, exorcisms, murder, and suicide. Responding to personal distress with language both powerful and gentle, Pádraig sees that both poetry and story—sacred stories and personal stories—might be the thing to save us.
Introduced by Chloe Selles, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

Cultivating Compassion through Literature for Young Readers
NIKKI GRIMES
There’s a great deal of discussion about the need for diversity in children’s and YA literature, a topic routinely viewed from the perspective of numbers and statistics. While it’s true that the growing shift in population toward a greater percentage of people of color in this country heightens the need for diverse literature, a great deal more is at stake than how the numbers shake out. Sharing a mixture of her poetry and prose, Nikki comments on a larger issue, namely where compassion fits into the diverse-literature equation. We have the powerful opportunity and responsibility to plant seeds of empathy and cultivate compassion through the intentional use of well-crafted diverse literature in our libraries, classrooms, and homes.
Introduced by Kim Doele

A Bike Ride through Grand Rapids
LAURA EVERETT
Join Laura Everett, author of Holy Spokes: The Search for Urban Spirituality on Two Wheels, for a one-hour bike ride through Grand Rapids. The 10-mile route will be largely flat and accessible for most riders. Park your bikes outside the Prince Conference
Center and meet in the Fireside Room for a brief orientation and instructions. The group will reassemble there for reflections from Laura after the ride.

*Introduced by Jon Brown, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*

**{interview} A Conversation with Walt Wangerin Jr.**
Twelve years after their last conversation at the Festival, Karen Saupe interviews Walt Wangerin Jr. about the surprising twist in his final act and his storied career as a writer, reader, and pastor.

*Interviewed by Karen Saupe, Calvin College English Department*

**{solo} On Living, Making Meaning, and Writing**
KERRY EGAN
People are meaning-making creatures. We search for and make meaning of the events of our lives and in the stories we tell. Meaning making is the hallmark of both the writing and the spiritual life, and yet it isn’t something we always notice. Kerry Egan explores how the great spiritual practices can teach us to be more aware of how we make meaning in our writing and in our lives.

*Introduced by Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, Spectrum Health*

**{reading workshop} Bullet Journaling for Readers and Writers**
JENNIFER TRAFTON
Jennifer Trafton muses on her “theology of beautiful lists” and discusses how she uses a Bullet Journal as a creative outlet, a therapeutic tool, a way to keep track of reading and writing projects, and a strategy for spiritual, mental, and vocational decluttering. Audience interaction and doodling highly encouraged.

*Introduced by Amanda Smart, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*

**{panel} Writing Well about Adoption—and Other Complicated Things**
LORILEE CRAKER, MELISSA FRANTZ, JESSICA GOUDEAU, KELLEY NIKONDEHA
Writers wrestle with complex things—death, depression, racism, gentrification, and yes, adoption. The stakes are high; our words affect our families and communities. And it matters if we write well or not, especially when we write about things that change over time and our words sit static on the page. These panelists—writers who have all adopted and/or been adopted—explore how to write, wrestle, and transform with honesty. In these days fraught with complexity and polarization, can we learn together in humility and grace?

**{interview} A Conversation with Amit Majmudar**
A radiologist and poet, a family man and novelist, Amit Majmudar has said his life’s work “all has to do with pattern.” In this interview, Majmudar will field questions about the patterns that his poems, fictions, and essays examine: those we inherit from our families, cultures, and religions; those we invent in our art and politics; and those we intuit at work in the cosmos.

*Interviewed by Jane Zwart, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*
A Conversation with Sandy Sasso
Sandy Sasso discusses being the first woman ordained as a rabbi in the Reconstructionist branch of Judaism, how Hasidic tales introduced her to the power of storytelling, and why thoughtful spiritual formation for young people is so important.

Interviewed by Mary S. Hulst, Calvin College Office of the Chaplain

Why Don’t Men Read Women Writers? Closing the Gender Gap in Christian Publishing
KATELYN BEATY, ROBERT N. HOSACK, AL HSU, JEN POLLOCK MICHEL, TISH HARRISON WARREN
According to panelist Al Hsu’s doctoral research, women read relatively equally between male and female authors (54%/46%), whereas men are much more likely to read male authors than female authors (90%/10%). This panel explores reasons for this gender gap as well as practical ways in which women writers might gain a broader readership among men.

Advancing Fiction Narratives via Character Development
KATHERINE JAMES
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 2–4pm.

3:30pm
A Conversation with Jen Hatmaker
Anyone who has read Jen Hatmaker knows she writes with a winsome combination of authenticity and hilarity. Having known success as a bestselling writer, Jen has also undergone criticism for stances she has taken in recent years. This wide-ranging interview explores it all.

Interviewed by Jennifer L. Holberg, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
Dale Brown Memorial Interview

My Prosperity Gospel
KATE BOWLER
As an expert in the American prosperity gospel, Kate Bowler had a good handle on why Americans are obsessed with being #blessed. But after her own cancer diagnosis, she discovered that she was a little more invested than she realized.

Introduced by Kristin Kobes Du Mez, Calvin College History Department

Breaking Up and Breaking Down: Spiritual Stories
APRIL AYERS LAWSON
How people behave when their relationship is breaking down is at least as interesting and mysterious as how they behave when they’re falling in love. Through an examination of relationship breakup trauma in fiction and the breakup narrative, April Ayers Lawson analyzes the psychological, spiritual, and existential effects of relationship breakdown, drawing connections between our struggle for meaning during breakup and our need for God.

Introduced by Cindy Kok
Learning to Tell Great Stories
LEA THAU
Drawing from her decades developing stories for projects including The Moth and Strangers podcasts, Lea Thau discusses the key principles of great storytelling and offers concrete tips for creating compelling narratives both on and off the page. She explores how to grab an audience’s attention—and keep it—by building suspense, landing your points, using the right details, developing a story arc, delivering your story in the manner that best suits your audience and personal strengths, and more.

Introduced by Micah Lott, Boston College

A Conversation with Carlos Colón and Adam Tice: The Shared Psalms
The Psalms have long been a source of inspiration to composers across cultures, religious traditions, and political contexts. A Reformed worship leader interviews a Mennonite hymn text writer from the United States and an ecumenical composer from El Salvador about their creative work in bringing the Psalms to life in fresh ways today. Together, they explore their approaches and sing a few examples of their psalm settings.

Interviewed by Emily R. Brink, Calvin Institute for Christian Worship

Daughters Writing about Mothers
JILL PELÁEZ BAUMGAERTNER, BARBARA CROOKER, ANGELA ALAIMO O’DONNELL, JEANNE MURRAY WALKER
The mother/daughter relationship is complex and often further complicated by toxic patterns and a reversal of roles as the parent ages. In this session, four writers examine both the intimacy and distance in their relationships with their mothers and describe the process, tensions, and challenges of capturing what are sometimes fraught mother/daughter friendships in poetry and prose, where imperfection and loss become public.

In Others’ Words
SETH HAINES, KATHY KHANG, SHAWN SMUCKER
The co-writer is tasked with a particularly difficult form of writing: that of getting down some other person’s words, some other person’s story. How does one go about doing such a thing, practically speaking? Artistically speaking? This panel explores these questions plus the economics of co-writing and the ethics of ghostwriting.

Confessions of a Newspaper Columnist in an Angry Age
TONY NORMAN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist Tony Norman has been writing about the intersection of race, politics, and culture twice a week since 1996. There has never been a shortage of hot topics, but in the last two years, the temperature of everyday discourse has steadily risen. Suddenly the public square is a very angry place. Commentators on every platform have to deal with the weight of their words in ways they never have before. He asks: Is there a way to resist the powers-that-be without succumbing to partisan anger and hatred? Or does speaking truth to power necessitate raising the temperature of political and cultural discourse?

Introduced by Paul E. Bylsma, Calvin College Alumni Association
Writing behind Bars
KIMBERLEY BENDICT, PHIL CHRISTMAN, COZINE WELCH, THE CPI WRITERS’ CLUB
Prison both monopolizes time and wastes it. Inmates lose control (of their time, safety, and labor) yet spend many hours in enforced solitude and idleness. No surprise, then, if many take up writing—a habit often found among people who have time but little power. How does writing in prison differ from writing in the free world? How can readers and writers outside of prison support their fellow readers and writers in prison—without slipping into condescension, or worse, exploitation? This panel explores these questions and checks in via video with a group of writers at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan, who are also undergraduate students at Calvin College, part of a partnership between the college and Calvin Theological Seminary that provides a liberal arts education to inmates.

A Reading: Oliver de la Paz
Introduced by Chris Haven, Grand Valley State University

5pm
An Evening with Edwidge Danticat
Introduced by Isabelle Selles, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing
Wiersma Memorial Lecture

6:30pm
Wind-Down Yoga
JENNY SHEFFER-STEVENSON
This low-key restorative yoga flow will focus on areas of the body that get tight and cramped when sitting at a desk and writing all day, as well as particular muscle tensions that inhibit the creative response. We’ll practice balancing breath techniques to calm and de-clutter the mind, and conclude with a guided relaxation designed to inspire the imagination.
Note: For this one-hour class you’re encouraged to bring a large towel or small blanket, comfortable clothes you can move in, a cozy sweater or sweatshirt, and socks. This practice is suitable for all levels and every body type. All are welcome.

7:30pm
Film Screening: De Verloren Zoon
JAAP VAN HEUSDEN
Enjoy light refreshments before a screening of Jaap van Heusden’s De Verloren Zoon, an adaption of Flannery O’Connor’s short story “The Lame Shall Enter First” set in modern Netherlands. Runtime: 40 minutes
Introduced by Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Wheaton College Emerita
Post-Screening Conversation featuring Jaap van Heusden, screenwriter and director; Herman De Vries Jr., Calvin College German Department; Ralph C. Wood, Baylor University Emeritus; and Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Wheaton College Emerita
DeVos Communications Center, Bytwerk Theater
Sponsored by the Frederik Meijer Chair in Dutch Language and Culture
theater} Sense and Sensibility
CALVIN THEATER COMPANY
The classic story by Jane Austen, adapted by Jessica Swale and directed by Debra Freeburg. Tickets available at the Calvin College Box Office and at the door.

9pm
open mic} Open Mic Poetry Reading
Hosted by the FFW Student Committee, this open mic event allows writers to share their poetry (or other work) for up to 10 minutes. Sign up at the Registration Desk by 6pm.
SATURDAY, APRIL 14

7am
{etc} Sunrise Stretch
JENNY SHEFFER-STEVENSS
Greet the final morning of the Festival and energize for your busy day with this 45-minute yoga practice. We’ll limber up the body with a traditional sun salutation series, followed by refreshing stretches, and an exercise to sharpen the mind and invigorate the imagination.
Note: For this 45-minute class you’re encouraged to bring comfortable clothes you can move in, a towel, and yoga mat (a few extras will be available). This practice is suitable for all levels and every body type. All are welcome.

8am
{writing workshop} Getting It Done
SARAH ARTHUR
While many of us would like to wait for inspiration to hit, the truth is that writing is work. And we need to honor the process by bringing to it all our skills. Whether it’s organizing materials, narrowing your focus, setting goals and deadlines, pacing the process, or simply getting the words out, veteran writer Sarah Arthur helps you identify what’s keeping you from moving forward as well as offers some practical tools for pushing through.
Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they’d like.

{etc} Tiny Take-Along Book Structures
JOANNA BATTJES
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is just under two hours and is designed so participants can get to a 10am session if they’d like.

8:30am
{solo} Do I Have to Be a “Christian Writer”?
LESLIE LEYLAND FIELDS
If we believe in the exclusive claims of Christianity, are we obligated then to be “Christian writers”? How do we reconcile the command of Jesus to “go and make disciples of all nations” with the aesthetic demands of good Art? Leslie shares her own wobbling path through the limits and the possibilities of writing from faith, offering a third path that honors and embodies both Art and Gospel.
Introduced by Debra L. Freeberg, Calvin College Communication Arts and Sciences

{reading} A Reading: Scott Cairns
Scott Cairns reads from his published poetry and prose works—and from his new poetry manuscript, Anaphora—discussing how a sense of pilgrimage has come to inform his relationship to his own works, how he understands the writer’s vocation to be less about expressing what one thinks or knows, and more about writing to glimpse something just out of view.
Introduced by Gregory Wolfe, Image
He Said, She Said
HUGH COOK
One of the important components of successful fiction is effective dialogue. This workshop examines detailed aspects of dialogue, such as how to use both direct and indirect dialogue, proper use of dialogue tags, and avoiding common dialogue errors.

Eros, Poetry, and the Divine Body
ALEXANDRA BARYLSKI
Pre-registration required.

Cars, Kitchens, and Couches: Family Life as Story in Young Adult Realism
SARA ZARR
From the inception of the Golden Age of young adult literature, family has been the context of our best coming of age stories. How families love or fail to love each other and how adolescent characters are parented—by their actual parents, parental figures, found families, or themselves—is a primary source of drama and comedy in classic and modern young adult fiction. Sara Zarr explores the innate drama of the family unit and home life in her own work and that of others.

Retelling the Bible for Children
SANDY SASSO
Educator, rabbi, and children’s book author Sandy Sasso guides participants to learn new ways to tell Bible stories to children. Using examples from both the Hebrew scriptures and parables from the New Testament, Sandy gives examples of storytelling that allows children to bring their questions and curiosities to the story; that enables children to read the Bible without having to unlearn things later; and that doesn’t reduce Bible stories to moral object lessons.

Ancient Sources for Contemporary Writing
DIANE GLANCY, KAREN WRIGHT MARSH, DONYELLE MCCRAY, JAMES K. A. SMITH, LAUREN F. WINNER
Panelists from diverse backgrounds and traditions recount the ancient stories and wisdom that fuel their essays, short stories, poems, and novels. Writers from all faith traditions will discover an untapped trove of inspiration in the broken and beautiful sinner-saints who’ve gone before.

The Creative Nonfiction of a Niche Historian
RUSSELL RATHBUN
Since the author of Exodus wrote the story of God delivering Israel from Egypt while in exile in Babylon hundreds of years later, through to Sarah Vowell chronicling her vacation researching the assassinations of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley in hope of exorcising her irrational impulse to take out George W. Bush, writers have written about particulars in the past to find meaning in the present. Russell Rathbun reports in from the Salton Sea in the Southern California desert where he researches and
writes about the history of this unfolding man-made natural disaster in search of a spiritual practice for the end of the world.

Introduced by Krista Carter, Calvin College English Department

{solo} Testing the Virtues in Story
DANIEL TAYLOR
Compelling stories put the virtues at risk, which puts the characters at risk, which keeps us reading. This session includes reflections on the relationship of the virtues to craft and theme and the reading experience.

Introduced by Roy Anker, Calvin College English Department Emeritus

{panel} Focus off the Family
GINA DALFONZO, KATHRYN FREEMAN, KAREN SWALLOW PRIOR, JOY BETH SMITH, CHELSEA PATTERSON SOBOLIK
Church has long been a space characterized by married people and families and is just beginning to wake up to the discomfort this creates for faithful people whose lives don’t fit this description. This panel offers practical wisdom for writers who seek to help the church become more balanced and sensitive through writing deeply personal stories about the struggles and joys of lives that don’t have marriage and/or children as their focus.

{interview} A Conversation with Joy Williams
Interviewed by L. S. Klatt, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

{panel} Platforms and Privilege
AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN, JEFF CHU, RACHELLE GARDNER, DEIDRA RIGGS
If we publish—or aspire to publish—we write to be read. (Otherwise, we’d journal.) And the reality of the publishing industry is that it obsesses about platform. Who will buy your book? We wish we lived in a world where platforms were built entirely on merit. Truth is, we don’t. Race, gender, sexuality, class, various forms of privilege—all these enter the equation. While our temptation is simply to say #BurnItAllDown, we can’t, and perhaps we shouldn’t. This frank, difficult, but necessary conversation examines the sorrows and joys of our publishing experiences, the possibilities and limitations of platform, the ways in which the business may be changing, our hopes for the future, and the theological implications of it all.

10am
{panel} Writing Our Wrongs: Alternatives to the Savior Complex When Teaching Writing within Marginalized Communities
JOANNA ELEFTHERIOU, REBECCA LAUREN, ZENIQUE GARDNER PERRY, BETH PETERSON
While God created all human beings equal, not everyone has an equal opportunity to tell their story or create a work of art that expresses who they are. Four panelists who are inspired by Christ’s model of community with the marginalized share what they learned while teaching incarcerated men, adults with HIV and AIDS, immigrants, students of color, and LGBT students attending Christian colleges. Each writer explains how her
faith informs her teaching philosophy and how she deconstructs privilege in the process, cultivating space for all voices.

{interview} A Conversation with Jaap van Heusden
Dutch screenwriter and director Jaap van Heusden discusses telling stories via film, adapting Flannery O’Connor’s Christ-haunted South for a secular European audience, and his current project, In Alaska.
Interviewed by Geert Heetebrij and Sam Smartt, Calvin College Communication Arts and Sciences

{interview} A Conversation with Luci Shaw: Making and Keeping Friends for the Journey
As an editor, mentor, and friend, Luci Shaw has enjoyed deep creative partnerships with many writers, perhaps none so dear as her relationship with the late Madeleine L'Engle. Despite differences both held dear, the two animated each other’s work in important ways. They coauthored three books, and Luci suggested and then edited Madeleine’s seminal treatise on faith and writing, Walking on Water. Madeleine’s granddaughters, Charlotte Jones Voiklis and Léna Roy, have known Luci for years as a close friend of the family and interview her here about the role of community in the life of a writer and what it takes to forge and sustain friends for the journey.
Interviewed by Léna Roy and Charlotte Jones Voiklis

{panel} Writing about Suffering
JOHN BLASE, SHARON GARLOUGH BROWN, SUSIE FINKBEINER
Luis Alberto Urrea once said, “If you can see God in the muck and the mud, then you’ve got it, man.” This panel explores the importance of writing about suffering, adversity, and grief, particularly from a perspective of faith. Panelists discuss the beauty of seeing God from out of the depths and Urrea’s “it,” hope.

{music} Words for Worship: Crafting Congregational Song
ADAM TICE
What makes a hymn different from other forms of poetry? What are the elements of good text craft? How do texts and tunes get combined? And what in the world is 8.7.8.7D? These questions and more are discussed as Adam Tice, a seasoned hymn writer and teacher, explores the mechanics of writing texts for sung worship. Come engage in several exercises to create simple, short songs—and learn what it takes to dive deeper into writing for your own community’s worship.
Introduced by James Vanden Bosch, Calvin College English Department

{interview} A Conversation with Natalie Diaz and Margarita Pintado
Two poets—one from Puerto Rico, the other an enrolled member in the Gila River Indian community—discuss how fluency in Spanish and Mojave respectively gives them expanded ways of accessing the world that both informs and enriches their writing.
Interviewed by Linda Naranjo-Huebl, Calvin College English Department

{interview} A Conversation with Bill McKibben
One of the original voices warning about climate change, Bill McKibben discusses how the climate has changed for him as a writer over the past 30 years. What is it like to
suffer harassment from the most powerful corporations on earth? What keeps him going, what gives him hope, under the current administration? And how has he balanced his roles as a writer, teacher, activist, and person of faith?

Interviewed by Paul Willis, Westmont College

{solo} Words & Images: Stories at the Intersection
JOHN HENDRIX
The pairing of pictures and text is as old as literature itself. Working in concert, words and images create a new space, a third language that neither can replicate on its own. Illustrator and author John Hendrix talks about his work and the rich potential of visual storytelling, spiritually and aesthetically.

Introduced by Kenneth Kraegel

{interview} A Conversation with Kate Bowler and Kerry Egan
Kate Bowler and Kerry Egan consider both shared and distinct terrain in their experiences as cancer patient and hospice chaplain, while exploring the power of language to shape our understanding of illness, identity, and belief.

Interviewed by Jessica Bratt Carle, Spectrum Health

{interview} The Story behind the Story
MELISSA FRANTZ, LEA THAU
Three years ago Lea Thau started documenting the life of Melissa Frantz’s family—chronicling how their approach to open adoption has turned into a radical experiment in community and also an ongoing confrontation with systemic racism—for her podcast Strangers. In this conversation Lea and Melissa discuss what it’s like being on either side of the microphone, the ethics of telling other people’s stories, the possibilities and limits of empathy, and what might be next for both of them.

Interviewed by Lisa Ann Cockrel, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

{solo} Sometimes Walking into a Sunset Is Walking into a Dawn
JEFF ZENTNER
When Jeff Zentner came to a crossroads in his musical career, the path he took—writing books for young people—was one he never expected. In this talk, he discusses his winding journey of becoming a writer from the dying embers of one creative pursuit, how it intersected with his faith and its struggles, how he balances a full-time job with his writing career, and writing books on his phone on the bus.

Introduced by Deborah Visser, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

11:30am
{interview} A Conversation with Jamie Quatro and April Ayers Lawson: Sex, the Spirit, Short Stories, and the South
Jamie Quatro and April Ayers Lawson discuss the twin desires of spirituality and sexuality in their work, the craft of short stories, and how the South shapes their writing.

Interviewed by Amy Frykholm, Christian Century
From Micromégas to Terra Ignota: Science Fiction’s Love/Hate Relationship with Spirituality

JO WALTON

You’d expect fantasy to be concerned with God, gods, and spirituality, but by and large it isn’t, or engages religious themes poorly. Whereas science fiction, while generally claiming to be atheist and secular, has a secret fascination with the spiritual and engages it in fascinating ways. Many of sci-fi’s classic texts are deeply engaged with religion, including Dune, Stranger in a Strange Land, A Canticle for Lebowitz, and The Left Hand of Darkness. Walton discusses these books and the genre’s love/hate relationship with spirituality.

Introduced by Jennifer H. Williams, Calvin College English Department

Writing Real Stories in a World of Fake News

SARAH PULLIAM BAILEY

These days our news channels and social media feeds often feel like a cacophony of hot takes, posturing, outrage, and lies. Sarah Pulliam Bailey discusses how she learned to break through the noise as a religion reporter to tell the authentic, true stories readers still crave. She shares how to find good ideas, shape meaningful stories, and pitch and write articles with integrity.

Introduced by Josh Parks, Calvin College Chimes

A Reading: Tania Runyan

Tania Runyan reads from What Will Soon Take Place, an imaginative journey through the book of Revelation. She offers a poet’s view of the prophetic, not in the sense of seeking out clues to the “end times,” but a means of taking this strange, fantastic book of scripture and letting it read its way into personal lives. This is not prophecy as foretelling, but forth-telling: telling us the truths of our lives in the light of God’s light.

Introduced by Otto Selles, Calvin College French Department

A Conversation with Oliver de la Paz

Oliver de la Paz talks about art as a collaborative exercise, the ingenuity of hybrid forms, the importance of creating spaces that foster solidarity and support among minority writers, and what it means to mentor young writers.

Interviewed by Susanna Childress, Hope College

Writing Honestly about Race (When Your Audience Is Primarily White)

EDWARD GILBREATH, KAREN GONZALEZ, LISA SHARON HARPER, SANDRA MARIA VAN OPSTAL, MARGOT STARBUCK

Communicating nuanced ideas about race is fraught with the possibility of misunderstanding, resistance, or outright hostility. Yet in these polarized times, it’s crucial that Christian voices infuse public discourse with prophetic messages of hope, compassion, and justice. In this session, a diverse panel of leaders offers stories and tips to equip communicators to clearly address issues of race, ethnic identity, and reconciliation—especially when their audience is predominantly white.
Play Your Way to Creative Productivity
MARYANN MCKIBBEN DANA
Writers, artists, and other creatives know the importance of discipline in our work: Applying butt to chair. Getting the pages done. Not waiting for “inspiration” to strike. Sometimes, though, we get dried up and burned out. We lose our sense of mystery and wonder. Writing becomes a chore, and the work suffers as a result. This interactive workshop inspired by improv comedy, offers practical, accessible tools for getting out of your own way so the creativity can flow. Get up and get in touch with your playful side.
Calvin Seminary, Auditorium

A Reading: Robin Coste Lewis
Introduced by Natasha Oladokun, Hollins University

Spirituality in Young Adult Literature
WILLIAM BOERMAN-CORNELL, KATHERINE GIBSON, KRISTINE GRITTER, GARY D. SCHMIDT, DEBORAH VRIEND VAN DUINEN
Religion is often, though not always, avoided in mainstream young adult literature. Panelists discuss the latest developments in the YA scene related to spirituality, recommend books that deal with issues and themes rooted in diverse faith traditions, and share suggestions for writers, readers, and teachers about how to approach religion in YA literature.

A Conversation with Fleming Rutledge: The Cross and the Christian
Acclaimed preacher Fleming Rutledge discusses common misconceptions even theologians have about the crucifixion, how modern ideas about sin and evil distort our understanding of what actually happened on the cross, and why Anselm is still important today.
Interviewed by Scott Hoezee, Center for Excellence in Preaching

Wisdom in the Shadows: Bringing Seasoned Women’s Voices to Light
AMANDA CLEARY EASTEP, JENNIFER GRANT, KATHY KHANG, MICHELLE VAN LOON
Those in the second half of life—particularly women—are often just beginning to discover their voices as writers. But it can be discouraging when it seems like attention is skewed toward the young and novel, instead of the experienced and wise. What’s an older writer to do? This panel explores these challenges and issues a call to see the wisdom that comes from age and experience with fresh eyes.

Detoxifying Masculinity through Story and Verse
JEFF CHU, KRISTIN KOBES DU MEZ, JONATHAN HISKES, BILLY MARK
Stories can help us discover who we are and who we want to be. Rarely is this more urgent than with the complex, contested, and confusing question of what it means to be a 21st-century man. We examine the rise of a toxic masculinity that seeks dominance and control, and look to literature for more faithful visions of masculinity. We reflect on
our own writing and the art that sustains us while also considering how masculinity intersects with race, class, sexuality, faith, and other dimensions of identity.

{lunch forum} **Writing the Wrinkles in Time**

SARAH ARTHUR, LÉNA ROY, CHARLOTTE JONES VOIKLIS

Sarah Arthur, author of the forthcoming *A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle*, explores what Madeleine’s life and books have taught her about writing from the stuff of your life when life doesn’t go as planned—whether it’s surprises about your topic, plot twists in your personal circumstances, or feedback that requires rebuilding a project from the ground up. Special guests include Madeleine L'Engle’s granddaughters, Léna Roy and Charlotte Jones Voiklis, coauthors of *Becoming Madeleine: A Biography of the Author of A Wrinkle in Time by Her Granddaughters*.  
*Sponsored by Zondervan*

{lunch forum} **Publish or Parish: Pastors and the Writing Life**

ARTHUR BOERS, SCOTT CAIRNS, ANN GILLESPIE, CHRIS HOKE, LAUREN F. WINNER

Bringing together four active writers who also serve pastoral roles—two Episcopal priests, an Anglican priest, and a gang pastor/jail chaplain—the panelists discuss how their pastoral roles are enhanced by their writing disciplines and how their writing is enriched by their pastoral service.  
*Sponsored by the Seattle Pacific MFA in Creative Writing*

{lunch forum} **Writing about Politics in an Age of Rancor**

SARAH PULLIAM BAILEY, KAREN SWALLOW PRIOR, C. CHRISTOPHER SMITH, JAMES K. A. SMITH, JEREMY WELLS

*Sponsored by Brazos Press*

2pm

{panel} **Private Prayer, Public Writing: The Positives and Pitfalls of Writing about the Spiritual Life**

ANGELA DOLL CARLSON, KAITLIN B. CURTICE, ED CYZEWSKI, LISHA EPPERSON, SETH HAINES, TARA M. OWENS

Thomas Merton wrote that artists run the risk of “exploiting every experience as material for ‘creation,’” and, as a result, may never enter the deeper aspects of contemplative prayer. With the rise of memoirs and blogs alongside the existing spiritual writing books that often use personal anecdotes, a discussion of boundaries for writers of faith today is essential. Panelists discuss how writers can write about the spiritual life so that others receive instruction and guidance, while maintaining the privacy and intimacy of their relationships with God.
Lost to History: Giving Voice to Augustine’s Concubine
SUZANNE M. WOLFE
Suzanne M. Wolfe reads short passages from her novel The Confessions of X and discusses the project of imagining a life for the mother of Augustine’s child.
Introducted by Katherine Swart, Calvin College Hekman Library

Successful Intergenerational Book Clubs
DEBORAH VRIEND VAN DUINEN
Book club participation has risen in North America over the past decades, including in the form of intergenerational clubs—parent/child, teacher/student, and so on. In this workshop, Deborah Vriend Van Duinen shares best practices of successful intergenerational book clubs based on her years of experience facilitating both mother/daughter and mother/son clubs, as well as scholarly work on book club participation.

Writing and What Matters Most
JEN HATMAKER
Jen Hatmaker discusses what it looks like when writing things that matter take a turn into advocacy, theological tension, and political resistance. How do we write and lead on meaningful topics in a way that encourages dialogue without feeling silenced by criticism? When writers are also thought leaders, how do we steward our influence by choosing words that both reconcile and challenge while maintaining best practices for soul care? It is an important time to be a writer, and we have a role to play in culture that will require intelligence, courage, and an intentional use of our voices.
Introducted by Sarah L. Turnage, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing

It’s the End of the World as We Know It and I Feel Fine: Apocalyptic Literature and the Meaning of Life
ANBARA SALAM, RUSSELL RATHBUN
A novelist and niche historian discuss why stories about the end of the world—as we know it, as we hoped for it to be, across genres and cultures—capture our imaginations. Why do they fascinate us? What do they reveal about the nature of modern life?
Interviewed by Jana Riess, Religion News Service

A Conversation with Dinty W. Moore
Dinty W. Moore discusses the art and craft of literary nonfiction, writing flash essays for the digital age, and how Buddhism shapes his own creative practice.
Interviewed by Sarina Gruver Moore, Grove City College

A Reading: Natalie Diaz
Introducted by Kristina Faust Kaminskas
Sponsored by the Mellema Program in Western American Studies

A Conversation with Sara Zarr and Jeff Zentner
Sara Zarr and Jeff Zentner discuss writing about class, poverty, and fraught family relationships in YA novels.
Interviewed by William Boerman-Cornell, Trinity Christian College
The Art of the Personal Essay
MEGHAN FLORIAN
Pre-registration required. Note: This workshop is two hours, from 2–4pm.

Sentiment without Sentimentality: Women Writers Who Won’t Stay in Their (Inspirational) Lane
KAREN GONZALEZ, JESSICA MESMAN GRIFFITH, LYZ LENZ, D. L. MAYFIELD, KAYA OAKES, CHRISTIANA N. PETERSON
For those who don’t fit the standard definition of what it means to be a religious writer in this day and age, this panel explores how to get published when you are religious but not inspirational, how to be sad in a publishing world that rewards tidy solutions, and transcending the traditional boundaries of genre, religion, class, and gender.

101 Ways to Cultivate Online Literary Conversations
ALEXIS DE WEESE, LINDSAY GUSTAFSON
With endless banter in digital spaces, how does one inspire conversations of value around topics that matter? This workshop provides readers concrete and manageable ideas to instigate genuine digital conversations about their favorite books and authors.

3:30pm
Thomas Merton and Bob Dylan: Joined at the Hippocampus
ROBERT HUDSON
Although they never met, Thomas Merton and Bob Dylan were two of the most controversial figures of the 1960s. In the summer of ’66, after a brief affair with a student nurse, hermit-monk Merton became a Dylan fanatic, an interest that changed the direction of his writing. Robert Hudson, author of The Monk’s Record Player: Thomas Merton, Bob Dylan, and the Perilous Summer of 1966, examines both Merton and Dylan during that influential period, when social and spiritual forces came into conflict like never before. Come ready to hear music—Dylan, Joan Baez, and John Coltrane—and to discuss.
Introduced by Donald Hettinga, Calvin College English Department

A Conversation with Jo Walton
Jo Walton is a prolific writer, poet, and reader of both science fiction and fantasy. From her blog pieces on Tor.com to her far-ranging trilogy, Thessaly, she explores time, space, and the interactions of people in difficult situations. She discusses why so much modern fantasy gets religion wrong; the legacy of Ursula K. Le Guin; her forthcoming novel about the Dominican friar, Savonarola; Renaissance-era humanism; and more.
Interviewed by Francene Lewis, Calvin College & Calvin Theological Seminary, Hekman Library

Building Community through Conversations about Books
DENISE MCCLELLAN
Pre-registration required.
When the Wild Things Are Not
DOROTHY FORTENBERRY
Playwright and screenwriter Dorothy Fortenberry reflects on reading classic books to her young daughters while the natural world depicted in them is evaporating. She explores what it feels like to read books including Anne of Green Gables, The Secret Garden, and Where the Wild Things Are in a time of accelerating climate change, and what such stories might offer her children in their uncertain future.

Introduced by Allie Vroegop, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

A Conversation with Robin Coste Lewis
Robin Coste Lewis talks about the black female figure Western art, why Beauty is not for the faint of heart, black joy as an aesthetic, and why her traumatic brain injury is “the gift that keeps on taking.”

Interviewed by Lisa Van Arragon, DisArt

Why We Still Need a Room of Our Own
MARLENA PROPER GRAVES, JESSICA MESMAN GRIFFITH, RACHEL MARIE STONE
It’s hard to make a living from writing, and writing takes serious time. Representation in print, therefore, represents privilege. Virginia Woolf and Tillie Olsen knew this and argued forcefully for those silenced voices—first, that we be aware of the silence, and then, that we work to correct the material conditions that lead to silencing. Panelists get beyond dreamy aphorisms about “write or die” to discuss why some people—women, minorities, the working class—still can’t live out their vocations as writers, or at least not as fully as others, and what readers and writers can do to amplify marginalized voices.

Insider Info: Nonfiction Book Proposals Agents and Editors Love
CHAD ALLEN, RACHELLE GARDNER, STEPHANIE SMITH, MARGOT STARBUCK, JESSICA WONG
Agents and acquisitions editors share what makes so many proposals feel tired and overdone, as well as what it is in well-crafted proposals that sparks their interest and keeps them reading. Learn how to delight agents and publishers and, ultimately, your readers. Bring questions for Q&A.

Surprised by Joy: Poetry about Faith and Happiness
BARBARA CROOKER, JULIE L. MOORE, TANIA RUNYAN, ANYA SILVER
Four poets from different Christian traditions read their work and discuss the role of joy in their poetry and creative lives. All four seek to incorporate profound joy in their poetry and to explicitly address God as the source of their rejoicing, even when happiness is hard-won.

Dwelling in the Discomfort Zone
MARILYN MCENTYRE, MARCIA MEIER, SUSAN S. PHILLIPS, SHIRLEY HERSHEY SHOWALTER, JEANNE MURRAY WALKER
Tricky issues come up in writing—writing about others without harming, writing about public controversies without alienating those you hope to engage, using or avoiding politically charged or loaded language, the proprieties of self-disclosure, and more.
Based on long experience writing memoir, personal essays, creative nonfiction, and poetry, panelists offer strategies for navigating the “discomfort zone”; new approaches to the ethics of writing about self, others, and God; and, ultimately, a new vision for what it might mean to be both bold and compassionate writers.

5pm
{keynote} An Evening with Bill McKibben: Storytelling, Activism, and Keeping the Faith
Bill McKibben has been sounding the alarm about climate change for over 30 years—through investigative journalism, essays, books, op-eds, and, most recently, his first novel. He discusses how narratives drive social action (and inaction), how faith grounds his commitment to climate justice through both breakthroughs and setbacks, and what we can do now in the face of renewed political opposition to creation care.
*Introduced by Debra Rienstra, Calvin Center for Faith & Writing*
*Lionel Basney Memorial Lecture*

7:30pm
{theater} Sense and Sensibility
CALVIN THEATER COMPANY
The classic story by Jane Austen, adapted by Jessica Swale and directed by Debra Freeburg. Tickets available at the Calvin College Box Office and at the door.