

2020 Cedar Falls Christian Writers Workshop Speakers

Keynote:



James Watkins is an award-winning author of over 2,000 articles and author, co-author and contributor to over 40 books, (see <https://www.jameswatkins.com/books-2/book-list/>), including a timely *Our Daily Bread Guide to Everyday Life: Overcoming Fear and Worry*, published in late 2019. He has served as an editor and editorial director at Wesleyan Publishing House, an editor with the American Bible Society, editorial advisor for ACW Press, and taught writing at Taylor University for 15 years.

Jim has been a guest-lecturer at Liberty, Regent and other universities, as well as a keynote and presenter across the United States and overseas at writers' conferences, including the Cedar Falls Christian Writers Workshop in 2015. He also directed the Sandy Cove Writers Conference in Maryland for 11 years and was Director of programming for the St. David's Writers Conference in Pennsylvania.

He is currently writing and speaking full-time as well as [consulting](#) in book development. His most important roles, however, are being a child of God, husband, dad and "papaw." Jim is passionate about spreading hope and humor and teaching others to express themselves through writing. His prolific website resides at www.jameswatkins.com



Mary Potter Kenyon graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a BA in psychology and is a certified grief counselor. By day, she works as Program Coordinator for Shalom Spirituality Center. By night, she is a public speaker for churches and women's groups and a workshop presenter and writing instructor for community colleges, libraries, and writer's conferences. She is widely published in newspapers, magazines, and anthologies, including ten Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Mary is the author of seven books, including the award-winning *Refined by Fire: A Journey of Grief and Grace* and the upcoming *Called to Be Creative*, endorsed by #1 New York Times bestselling author Debbie Macomber. Mary lives in Dubuque, Iowa, with the youngest of her eight children. Visit her website at MaryPotterKenyon.wordpress.com



Jean Vaux, Life Design Coach, writer and speaker, helps influencers and communicators align with their design to re-invent body, soul and spiritual health, to transform stress into serving and leading from strength. She is the former managing editor of the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Magazine* and the *Cedar Valley Christian News/Iowa Christian Chronicle*. She also helped start the *Cedar Valley Athlete Magazine* locally and was its Wellness Editor. She leads workshops and retreats and is a natural foodie. You can like her Facebook page at [JeanVauxCoaching](#)



As a certified Life Legacies facilitator, **Sue Schuerman** helps people to discover and record their life stories. Through reflective, contemplative writing classes, she encourages writers to deepen their relationship with the spiritual and natural world. Sue's writings have appeared in various anthologies and other publications. Sue retired from the University of Northern Iowa Foundation in 2016 and has recalibrated her time to lead workshops, complete her own memoir and encourage other writers to develop their craft. She is a co-director of the annual Christian Writers Workshop, leads the local monthly Cedar Falls Christian Writers Group, and is co-founder of **EarthWhispers** Retreats and Programs.



An Iowa farm girl (baby boomer), **Gail Kittleson** appeared with her thick glasses at the local library counter every Saturday of her childhood and hauled home a new pile of books. Later, she earned her MA in TESOL and taught English as a Second Language and college expository writing. Over a ten-year period during her husband Lance's deployments to the Middle East, Gail's memoir developed, and another is presently with a publisher. Since the World War II bug bit, she's never been quite the same. Her Women of the Heartland fiction brings to life this challenging era's make-do women whom she loves to introduce to new readers.

Gail delights in historical research, grandchildren, gardening in Northern Iowa, and Arizona's Mogollon Rim in winter. Facilitating workshops fulfills her teaching craving, and she also cheers other writers on through free-lance editing. You can find more about her publications and check out her blog at www.gailkittleson.com



Anne Fleck is the owner of Write Team (Write-Team.com), a book coaching and editing business. She supports writers as they develop their talents and pursue their publishing goals. Anne works on memoir, fiction, and historical story telling. This year three of her clients published their work, two of whom are alumni of CFCWW. She lives in Polk City with her husband, two kids, dog, and both her parents. Find her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/novelspiritsbookclub/>