

Learning From the Inklings in Wartime

When Civilization and Cultures Are on the Brink...

March 21-22, 2025



REGISTER NOW...

Learning From the Inklings in Wartime

Friday & Saturday, March 21-22, 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California

Co-Sponsored by:



Northwind &
Institute

NEW COLLEGE Berkeley
AWAKEN THEOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

Join some of today's leading experts on the Inklings as we discuss the timely topic of global unrest and the lessons of war as seen through their eyes. At the heart of this event are questions such as:

- What were the Oxford Inklings up to when the winds of war were blowing?
- What can we learn from Lewis, Tolkien, Barfield, and Williams during two world wars and the rise of fascism in Europe?
- When the center cannot hold, how shall we then live?

Program: Faith & Film night with Eastgate Creative Producers of "The Forge of Friendship," two Plenary Sessions, seven Concurrent Conversations, New College Luncheon, a Walking Tour of UC Berkeley past Lawrence Livermore Labs (hydrogen bomb and "Star Wars" strategic defense development), and a visit to the Inklings Cafe.

Program Fee: \$400 (not including accommodations)

Accommodations: TBA

Register: www.NorthwindInstitute.org/Advances



*Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed,
and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*

~ William Butler Yeats

HOSTS & FACULTY



Dr. Michael J. Christensen – Professor of Theology and Center Director of the Romantic Theology program at Northwind Seminary. Once Senior Resident Scholar at The Kilns (Lewis’s historic home in Oxford), he is the author of *C. S. Lewis on Scripture* and contributor to the *C. S. Lewis Study Bible*.



Rob Jones – Singer/songwriter, poet, and author of children and romance books such as *Bad Boys of the Kingdom* (fiction), *Re-Enchanted* (poetry), and *Here Comes the Night* (for children). Recently, *The Hidden Work: Poems Inspired by the Writings of C.S. Lewis* won 2nd Place in the Poetry and Inspiration category at The BookFest.



Dr. James Prothero – Retired Professor of English and Literature, Dr. Prothero is also a watercolor artist. Author of *Sunbeams & Bottles: The Theology, Thought, and Reading of C.S. Lewis*, he enjoys writing fiction as well as re-reading the English Romantics and the Oxford Inklings.



Dr. Joe Ricke – Director of the Inklings Folk Fellowship, an international group of scholars, readers, and artists, meeting weekly online. Previously Professor of English and Director of the Center for the Study of C. S. Lewis & Friends at Taylor University. Singer/songwriter, he performs as Joe Martyn Ricke with The Ricke Brothers.



Dr. Craig Wong – Executive Director of New College Berkeley and co-founder of Ekklesiae—a ministry that fosters theological conversation and gospel friendship among leaders across culture, tradition and generation.

ABOUT THE VENUE

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley (First Pres) has served the area from this corner for over 140 years. The church has played a pivotal role in supporting educational excellence and is committed to sharing the good news of the gospel and engaging with the community.



2407 Dana Street
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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 21

7:00 PM “The Forge of Friendship” – Faith & Film + Panel Discussion at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley / EastgateCreative.org

Saturday, March 22

9:00 AM Welcome from Dr. Craig Wong, Executive Director of New College Berkeley

9:20 AM Opening Plenary Session with Dr. Michael Christensen on “The Inklings in Wartime?”

10:00 AM Coffee Time

10:30 – 11:45 AM Wisdom in the Winds of War ~Concurrent Conversations~

Book Discussion	<i>A Hobbit, a Wardrobe, and a Great War: How J.R.R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis Rediscovered Faith, Friendship & Heroism in the Cataclysm of 1914 – 1918</i> by Joseph Loconte
Rob Jones	Poems and Stories for Wartime Inspired by C.S. Lewis
Dr. James Prothero	“War is Hell”: C.S. Lewis and his Writings on Hell, 1939 – 1946
Faith & Film	Eastgate Creative Team
Interactive	The Lord of the Rings Game
Dr. Joseph Ricke	Lewis’s 1939 “Learning in War-time” Sermon at University Church, Oxford

12:00 NOON Saturday Luncheon (New College Berkeley program)

1:30 – 2:45 PM Wisdom in the Winds of War ^{cont’d} ~Concurrent Conversations~ (see table above for session titles)

3:00 – 4:00 PM Final Plenary Session with Dr. Joseph Ricke on “The War Ministry of C. S. Lewis”

Afternoon (TBA) Walking Tour of UC Berkeley (Cal) and Inklings Café visit