



“On Stories,” April 24-25 2026

Call For Papers

The Mere Christians C. S. Lewis Conference gladly presents a Call For Papers for the upcoming gathering in Winter Garden, FL. The main conference’s orienting theme, “On Stories,” will guide us into the heart of Lewis’s life and work, with keynote talks on *The Magician’s Nephew*, The Ransom Trilogy, Lewis’s theoretical framework for narrative, as well as Tolkien’s seminal essay, “On Fairy-Stories.”

This year in the BanderTrack, the academic portion of our conference, our goal is not *necessarily* to illuminate the conference’s central theme but rather to workshop a variety of projects on their way to publication (books, papers, chapters, etc.). Presenters who wish to create a new piece that illuminates the conference’s theme, “On Stories,” are most welcome to do so.

We encourage a wide variety of paper topics, including the following suggestions:

- Problems and issues in chronology
- Platonism in the life and writings of Lewis
- Reassessments of (auto)biographical accounts of Lewis
- Inquiries into the exact nature of *mythos* in Lewis’s thought and writings
- (Re)appraisals of central themes in Lewis’s works, such as Joy, Strangeness, friendship, theophany, theodicy (esp. of imaginative and narrative approaches), etc.
- Points of continuity and discontinuity between Lewis and modern Evangelicalism
- Critical assessments of Lewis’s poetry

- Explorations of vital yet underexplored texts, such as “[Early Prose Joy](#).” Lewis’s *Philosophical Notes of 1924*, or The Great War letters, the latter two recently published by [The Journal of Inklings Studies](#)

Abstracts can be submitted to bandertrack@gmail.com and will undergo a double-blind process to determine acceptance status. Please submit anonymous abstracts of 250-500 words, including a statement that you have not used AI in the creation of your abstract or paper. **Deadline, March 31.**

Accepted participants should prepare for 15 minute presentations followed by 15-20 minutes of Q&A, feedback and discussion. On April 10th, all participants will send out their works-in-progress to the group. The group will then have two weeks to read all papers in order to deliver the highest quality feedback for our sessions. The conference committee will review abstract submissions on a rolling basis between February 27 and April 1.

Please send any queries to Michael Oppizzi and Annie Nardone at bandertrack@gmail.com.