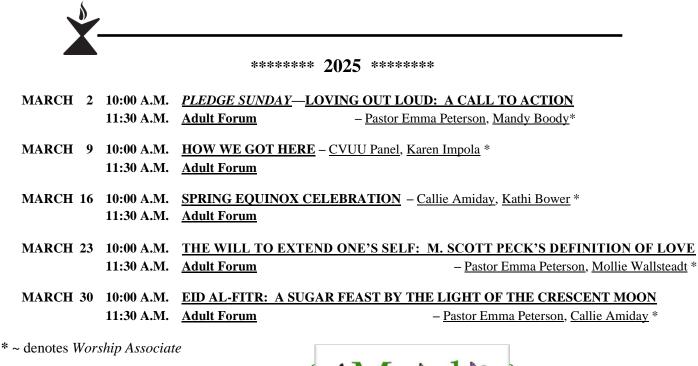


ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

319-266-5640

www.cedarvalleyuu.org





The **mission** of this organization is to be an accepting and supportive community that nurtures spiritual, emotional, and intellectual explorations, articulates ethical values, and encourages actions based on personal beliefs. This community is a voice for religious diversity, human tolerance, improvement of the human condition, and preservation of our environment.

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Early spring is often one of the most challenging times of the year for me. By mid-March, I am thoroughly over the cold and the gray and the wet. I am yearning for warm sunshine and green grass and blooming perennials. Unfortunately for me, March generally offers way more cold and gray than warm and sunny. This year, March will mark a time of major transition for me and my family. We'll close with our buyers in Dysart on the last day of February. Then we'll move to a temporary spot (thank you, *Dick Warhol*!) until we're able to find our long-term home in the Cedar Valley. I imagine March might be a challenging month for me, and I'm guessing I'm not alone in this. All the more reason to spend time in fellowship with our chosen Beloved Community. Nothing quite chases spring fever away like time spent in good company. (Although I must say, any turn of phrase that includes allusions to sickness hits different since 2020. You might have noticed I've been masking in church lately. I'm doing what I can to stay healthy and protect others. Please stay home if you've got the sniffles!)

Community is essential to our happiness and overall wellbeing. Whether we're chasing off the early springtime jittery blues, commiserating about the concerning State of Things, or sharing our hearts in worship, being together can keep us grounded and hopeful, no matter the season we're in. We've welcomed several new members and many new visitors over the last few months. I expect this trend to continue. People are seeking safe, welcoming community in a society increasingly devoid of safe, welcoming community. Sociologist Ray Oldenburg considered places like libraries, community parks, churches and other houses of worship to be "third spaces". From an article by Jordan Beal, "Oldenburg advocates that to live a balanced, happy life, people need engagement in three realms—at home, work, and in third places. Third places act as a core setting for informal public life, offering connection, community, and sociability...these places center around a common interest that fosters community and civic engagement. Very simply, third places can be thought of as societal glue. They bind people together to construct communities." Churches and religious communities are one of the last remaining intergenerational "third spaces," and they're in danger of extinction. It is my hope, especially as we wrap up another annual CVUU Pledge Drive, that our Beloved Community remains a vibrant, welcoming place for generations to come. Thank you for all you do to make this place what it is.

Pastor Emma



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I moved to Iowa in 1994, people said, "You're from California? Aren't you suffering from culture shock?" My answer was, "When you come from Berkeley, nothing shocks you." But for all of my bravado, it wasn't quite true. There were a few things that took some time to get used to: the weather, the landscape, and people who thought that Iowa was the center of the world.

When the first snowfall came, some people assumed that I'd never lived in the snow. They said, "So what do you think of all that white stuff out there?" My answer, "Oh, I know snow. California has snow. Have you heard of the Sierra Nevada? Did you know that there are places where the snow never melts? Have you heard of the Donner Party? Almost half of the people didn't survive." But even though I had spent time hiking and cross-country skiing in the Sierras, it didn't prepare me for the coldest days here in Iowa. The first time I went out in sub-zero weather with a wind chill of 20 below, I feared for my life. What would happen to my nose and lungs if I breathed that cold air in? And then there was March. Nothing prepared me for that cold, brown, barren month that seemed to last forever.

When I arrived for my first in-person job interview at UNI, I asked the faculty gathered around the long conference table, "Is this an Asch experiment? You told me that Iowa is hilly, but it looks flat to me. I was expecting something like the foothills of the Sierras." Their answer, "Well, it is hilly around here. You'll notice that once you get on your bike." And sure enough, when I was training locally for RAGBRAI, I did have to use all of the gears on my bike to get around. But it wasn't hilly enough to need chains for my car tires during the winter.

Luckily, I only met a few people who thought that Iowa was the center of the world. One of them was a department secretary at UNI. When I was trying to send a letter via campus mail, I neglected to put the office code on it and it was returned. She told me that the Psychology Department's code was 0505. I said, "Thank you. We didn't have those at Berkeley." Her answer? "Welcome to the real world." It usually takes me a couple of days to formulate a clever response to an insult like that. But instead of saying, "Why do people think that U.C. Berkeley is made up of a bunch of hippies?" I said, "I've lived in a lot of places in the world, and each place is real to the people who live there. So, in my experience, there are a lot of real worlds out there."

During my first year in Iowa, I missed California so much that I cried every day. It didn't help that I had a full-time, tenure track job, a six-year-old and an infant at home, and very little help. Joining the CVUU was a transformative experience for me. What a luxury to be with a group of like-minded people! Over the years, it has become an important source of social, intellectual, and spiritual growth for me. I can't imagine living here without it.

When I was a child, my parents gave me a quarter to put in the offering plate at Sunday School. I didn't know what the money was for, I just knew that that I was supposed to give it to God. At the neighborhood Presbyterian church in Waterloo where I took my kids to help them "fit in", the Sunday school teachers told them that they needed to bring money to church so they could give it to Jesus. In the classroom, there was an enormous picture of Jesus looking down on them so they would know who they were giving the money to. I found this alarming! How much better it would have been to be honest about where the money was going and why!

During our Pledge Campaign this month, I hope you will think about the importance of the CVUU in your life and in the lives of others. The pledge team will let you know exactly where the money is going and why. So please join me in giving generously to the CVUU. It might not be the center of the world at large, but it is the center of our beloved community here in Iowa.

Carolyn Hildebrandt CVUU President UU-related historical facts in our newsletters are contributed by *Mica Lorenz* and taken from *This Day in Unitarian Universalist History* by Frank Schulman – Skinner House Books.





MARCH SERVICES

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. online <u>and</u> in person unless stated otherwise.

March 2nd Pledge Sunday Loving Out Loud: A Call to Action

 $\sim \sim$ Pastor Emma Peterson, Mandy Boody (WA)

March 9th

<u>How We Got Here</u> $\sim \sim$ CVUU Panel, Karen Impola (WA) Hear from some of your fellow CVUU members, including some who just joined, about how their religious journey led them here.

March 16th

Spring Equinox Celebration

 $\sim \sim$ Callie Amiday; Kathi Bower (WA) It's a time of new growth, and a time when day and night are in balance. Come honor the turning of the year with us.

March 23rd

The Will to Extend One's Self: M. Scott Peck's Definition

of Love ~~ Pastor Emma Peterson, Mollie Wallsteadt (WA) This sermon is written and delivered for *Jane Allen*, the 2024 Treats & Talents 'Pick the Sermon' winner.

March 30th

Eid al-Fitr: A Sugar Feast By the Light of the Crescent Moon

 $\sim\sim$ Pastor Emma Peterson, Callie Amiday (WA) This sermon explores the customs and celebrations of the holiday Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan for Muslims across the world.



MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

Sunday morning meditation will continue at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Find the link in the Weekly Update to join in with this group on Sunday mornings and look for group posts and updates on the Buddhist Path Facebook page.

COVID-19 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

If we learn that there has been a possible COVID exposure at a CVUU event, we will send out an all-church email. To ensure that you receive these emails, verify that you are signed up on our newsletter and Weekly Update email lists.

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 in the days after attending an event at the CVUU should contact the CVUU office at <office@cedarvalleyuu.org>; the Vice President, *Karen Impola* at <vp@cedarvalleyuu.org>; and *Pastor Emma Peterson* at <pastor@cedarvalleyuu.org>.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Forums take place following the Sunday services <u>at 11:30 a.m.</u> unless publicized otherwise. Most, if not all, are available on Zoom and in person at the church.

March 2nd

Pledge Campaign

Join the pledge team today for Second Hour as they guide us in *Living Our UU Values* in a most artistic and tasty way!

March 9th

Try Pie

Sara Helliso, Director of Try Pie Bakery, will tell us about this organization, the fruits of which have been enjoyed by many of us—yum! It is a social enterprise that uses employment as an opportunity to engage and equip young women for their futures.

March 16th

Pills and Potions

Melissa Summers, from Pathways Behavioral Services will talk with us about medications. What kinds of medical records should we be keeping? What is best to do with unused meds? Is sharing medications ever appropriate? If we are in a caregiving role, what safeguards should we have to be sure that our loved ones use meds appropriately?

March 23rd

From Jail to Job

Michele and Dean Feltes will tell us about the empowering program that they run at One City in Waterloo. "Momentum" is a proven, successful six-week intense workforce development and life skills program. It gets to the root of what causes job loss, initiates transformational change, and develops the talents and traits that employers crave.

March 30th

Domestic Devils, Battlefield Angels

Dr. Barbara Cutter, Professor of History at UNI, will discuss her book about 19th century women, *Domestic Devils, Battlefield Angels*. Her work explores the ways in which women transformed American society. It shades new light on a gender ideology that fostered subliminal participation and action—even violence—in the name of women's redemptive Power.

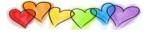
Al and Pam Hays for Adult RE



FY26 ALL-MEMBER PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Sunday, March 2nd is Pledge Sunday! Please join us for the service at 10:00 a.m. when *Pastor Emma*'s topic will be *Loving Out Loud: A Call to Action*. After the service we have something special planned for hospitality!

Thank you to all who have sent in your pledges! Pledges are due by Sunday, March 16th. To make a pledge you can go to this link: http://bit.ly/3CssRJN or obtain a paper copy of the pledge form in the Fellowship Hall. Our campaign goal this year is \$217,000. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the CVUU. We look forward to seeing you on March 2nd!



Michaela Rich Pledge Team Chairperson

BOARD BRIEFS

On February 13th your CVUU Board held its regular monthly meeting; here are a few highlights.

- Lay Minister: Mandy Boody is preparing to become a Lay Minister for the CVUU. The Board voted to approve her assessment committee: Emma Peterson (Pastor), Karen Impola (Religious Services) and Byron Plumley (Shared Ministry).
- Pledge Campaign: It's underway! This year's theme is Living Our UU Values. Some members of the CVUU will be visiting other members to talk about what the church means to them, and to encourage everyone to pledge generously to help support our goals for FY 2025-26.
- **Social Action**: *Rosa Torres*, *Mollie Wallsteadt*, *Byron Plumley* and other CVUU members have been active in demonstrating for immigrant rights in Cedar Falls. There is widespread concern that ICE will be rounding up immigrant workers in our area and deporting them without warning.
- Guest Musicians Program: Carolyn Hildebrandt will be inviting a greater variety of musicians to play during Sunday services, including members and non-members of the CVUU. Some recent performers were Jess Lieb (piano and voice), Nate Callahan (guitar and voice), Bethany Brooks (piano), Wren Taylor (string bass), Suzanne Bullard (cello), and Tim Purdum (piano).



We never know what the month of March will bring us weather-wise but there are plenty of special dates this month. Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, Daylight Saving Time begins, St. Patrick's Day, the Spring Equinox, and let's remember that the entire month is *Women's History month*! We hope you have something to celebrate during March.

It was with much sadness that we learned of the February 1st death of *Jay Edelnant*, UNI Theatre professor extraordinaire and husband of *Vicki*, father of *Noah* and *Julia*. Vicki was a creative and well-loved director of our RE program years ago when her children were young. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family.

We currently have members who are dealing with health issues including surgery; some are in various stages of the healing process. We wish each of them a speedy recovery to good health. To those who have experienced the loss of a relative or dear friend, we send our sympathy.

Contact the *Caring Connections Team* with pastoral concerns, or if you are in need of assistance.



The Soul Matters theme for March this year is *Trust*. Our children will also be using this theme in the RE classes. What does this theme mean to you in your daily life and in the lives of those around you? What life experiences concerning trust come to mind?



CHILDREN'S RE!!

February has passed, and now on to March! The Valentines Party was an absolute delight, with many cards made to be shared with friends, family, and those in our congregation who wished to take one.

The Soul Matters theme for March is *Trust*. Bonds that we create are built upon trust—in ourselves, in others, and in life itself as it is, and what it can be. I am excited to expand upon such important understandings through activities such as watercolor painting and sharing stories that teach us what we are capable of doing.

There will be five sessions of Children's RE for the month of March. Nursery and Second Hour childcare will be offered to any parents who wish to participate in the Sunday Adult Forums. I am beginning the process of seeking more volunteers for the CRE program, as I am always in need of helping hands. If that is something you might be interested in, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for more information on what volunteering for the CRE program would entail. Thank you to all of my current volunteers, without you none of this would be possible.

While winter is not quite over, there is joy in knowing that soon it will be spring. The end of February is always a difficult time for me, but to get past it each year is to know that I am capable of doing so. I trust in everyone's ability to keep moving forward, both as individuals and as a congregation. We've got this.

> Ronan Parker Coordinator of Children's Religious Education

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80

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Sunday, March 9th Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

CHANGING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY?

Have you had to change your email address in the on-line "Instant Church Directory"? After doing that, have you had a problem logging back in using your new email address? We've discovered a quirk in this program. The first time after changing your email, you must create a new login to connect to your existing information.

To do this from the web, on the Instant Church Directory Sign In page, click on the button at the bottom titled "First time signing in? Create Login". Then fill in the information requested. You will have to respond to an email to confirm the new address. In the password field, you can use the password you had before or create a new one. When you get in, you'll be connected to your existing entry, nothing will be lost or have to be re-entered. There is help available also at the following link: Logging into the App <u>– Instant Church Directory</u>. If you need help, feel free to contact me or *Leann*.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

We are seeing lots of faces, both new and familiar, at CVUU events and Sunday services. Share a warm CVUU welcome by

introducing yourself, or taking the time to talk to someone you haven't gotten a chance to know yet.



You may notice some changes in the

Fellowship Hall as Hospitality and Congregational Life try out some suggestions from the congregation on ways to make the space more user-friendly and easier to navigate.

There were five friends who attended the recent *New to CVUU* session on February 9th, and every week new friends join the CVUU Discussion Group on Facebook. No matter if you are a member, visitor, or friend, we welcome you to be a full part of the CVUU.

If you have any questions about getting more involved, let me, *Juanita Williams*, or *Pastor Emma* know.

Warmly, *Jill Miller* on behalf of the Congregational Life Council



NORTHEAST IOWA FOOD BANK

We are planning to volunteer again this month at the Food Bank—on Saturday, March 22nd from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Please sign up by contacting me (phone, text, email, or CVUU FB page). This has been a fun event for us in the past and we hope to keep it going. We'd like to have 8 to 15 people if possible, all ages, and there are some tasks that can be done sitting down.

Margie Miller



MARCH DEADLINES FOR THE CALENDAR AND NUUSLETTER

The next newsletter will be the <u>April</u> issue. The <u>calendar</u> deadline for this issue will be **Wednesday**, **March 19th** (send info to the office); the <u>newsletter</u> deadline will be **Friday**, **March 21st** (send articles to me). This information can also be found in <u>bold type on the calendar page of this newsletter</u>.

Mark your calendars <u>now</u> for **March 19th and 21st**—the calendar and newsletter deadlines *for the April issue*. There are paper copies left at the church each month—some in the acrylic wall holder on the north wall in the front entry, and some at the foot of the stairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Gerry Chamberlin, Editor newsletter@cedarvalleyuu.org



SOCIAL ACTION COLLECTIONS

The Social Action Collections are an important activity for the CVUU, and we have continued to do well in supporting worthy charities that are chosen annually by this congregation.

As is always the case, January's charity was for the UUSC's

Guest at Your Table program which raises support for and awareness of key human rights issues. This year was another banner year of our support in collected donations as we gave \$3,600 of CVUU love to the program!



Annually in February, we keep our focus of support on the CVUU with our *Pledge Campaign*. At the time of this newsletter deadline, we are in the midst of that campaign. Join us in this effort of keeping the CVUU's doors open and the many facets of this community running smoothly by pledging! Pledge forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall or can be emailed to you by contacting *Michaela*.

March's charity is for the *House of Hope* in Waterloo. Dusky Steele is the Development Director there who spoke to us on Sunday, February 2nd during the Adult Forum about the amazing work done by this organization. Let's get behind them and support this worthy cause!

Thank you to all who participate in supporting the charities each month in the name of the CVUU.

The Social Action Committee



MOVIE DISCUSSION SMALL GROUP

The Movie Discussion Small Group will be meeting this month in the sanctuary on Monday, March 10th at 1:00 p.m.

The movie being discussed will be *The Six Triple Eight* (2024) which can be seen on Netflix.

This is an open group and all are welcome, so if this Small Group sounds interesting to you and you'd like to be added to the email list, or you have questions, contact *Nancie Groszkruger*.



MINISTERIAL MOVING FUND

The Ministerial Moving Fund set up by the Board and the Shared Ministry Council to help *Pastor Emma* and *Skylar* move to the Cedar Valley is now closed. Thanks to everyone who was able to help with this unanticipated expense.



HAPPY HANG OUT

We all may need a bit of fun to look forward to each week, in addition to our Sunday service. Plans are for the building to be open on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. for a *Happy Hang*. If you are reading this in February, there is one on the 28^{th} . Watch for more dates.

It's a time when anyone can drop in with their favorite crocheting or craft project, read their new book, share a game or puzzle, swap houseplants, sing songs of social justice, talk or be silent. A time when folks do not need to commit to attending, but know the doors are open and they can drop in as they desire and are able. This is a pack-in, pack-out event, meaning if you bring food or drink with you, you are responsible to clean up after yourself. Feel free to organize a game or activity for the night. For more details contact *Jill Miller*.



WORLD'S GREATEST SPRING BREAK FOR KIDS

Are you searching for activities to entertain your children or visiting grandchildren during spring break week? Again this year the Grout is participating with other area organizations in the *"World's Greatest Spring Break For Kids"*.

Bring your family to downtown Waterloo to discover, explore, and play for just \$1 per child and each accompanying adult. Adults MUST be with a child to receive the \$1 admission.

Participating attractions include: Black Hawk Children's Theatre, Cedar Valley Sportsplex, Bluedorn Science Imaginarium, Dan Gable Wrestling Museum, Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum/Grout Museum, Phelps Youth Pavilion, Young Arena, Waterloo Public Library, the John Deere Museum and more!.

Cost: \$1 per site per person. Adults must attend with a child. For more details call the Grout or, better yet, check out the wonderful website: <www.mcelroytrust.org/spring-break/>.



WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience

Don't procrastinate! Spots still remain for these two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by four Alaska UU



congregations that are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For thirty-one years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit

Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience! If this sounds intriguing but you are unsure, on the website there is a section titled *"Is a WhaleCoast Tour Right For Me?"* so check it out.

Details at <www.WhaleCoastAK.org>. For questions their email is <info@whalecoastak.org>.



Arthur Foote was born on March 5, 1853. His family had a long Unitarian tradition and his brother, Henry Wilder Foote, Sr. was the minister of King's Chapel in Boston. Arthur studied music at Harvard University and served as the organist at Church of the Disciples and as organist and choirmaster at First Church, both in Boston. He composed chamber music, art songs, and choral music, as well as anthems, cantatas, and organ pieces for church use.



FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCKS

Our First Friday potluck this month is Friday, March 7th at

5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and bring a friend for good food and conversation.

Please bring something to share for the potluck if you can. There will be plenty of food, so no pressure! The



paper plates will be out, but if you prefer your "regular" plates and silverware, bring them along. The hot water will be on for tea or bring your own beverage. Everyone is welcome!

Thank you to everyone who attended in February! If you have questions about First Fridays, have a suggestion for a fun game or activity, or would like to help out, please contact me. Our next First Friday is April 4th.

Michaela Rich



May the Good Lord take a liking to you. . . but not too soon!

GREEN LIVING CORNER

Pollinator Seed Sharing and Garden Planning

On Saturday, March 8th at 9:30 a.m. the Pollinator Garden Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall to make plans for the coming gardening season. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to bring seeds to share.



Seven people met on March 7, 1920 with *Egbert Ethelred Brown*, a Jamaican born African-American Unitarian minister in Harlem to form the Harlem Community Church of New York City, the first African-American Unitarian congregation in the United States. Maurice Dawkins, an African-American, became the minister of education there in 1948.

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

~~Lao Tzu



"FIND YOUR PEOPLE" SOCIALS AT THE CVUU

One thing many of us love about the CVUU is that it's a great place to find like-minded people. We want to help you feel even more connected with like-minded UUs by helping to connect you with people within your own peer group(s). Two "Find Your People" Socials—to help the following peer groups meet up and connect with each other—are being held at the CVUU from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12^{th} and Friday, March 14^{th} .

Peer Group	Who's included?
Millennials	Those in their 20s, 30s, and early 40s
Parents	Those with kids at the CVUU
LGBTQ+	Those who identify as LGBTQ+
Men	Those who identify as men
Women	Those who identify as women
Other peer group(s) TBD	Bring your own suggestion!

If you wish to connect with people in one or more of these peer groups, join us in the *Fellowship Hall on Wednesday*, *March 12th and/or Friday, March 14th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.* to find your people and get to know each other!

If you enjoy your new peer group so much you want to spend more time together, we'll even help you figure out logistics for future gatherings.

Tea will be provided. Feel free to bring your own beverage and/or a snack, appetizer, or dessert.

If you have questions, or if you'd like to join in the fun but can't meet at either of the times listed, please contact *Heather Flory*.



CARING CONNECTIONS TEAM

The members of our Caring Connections Team are devoted to serving this congregation month after month in various ways as the needs arise. Many thanks to each of them! The contact person for assistance in *March* is *Jan Anderson*.



Paul Cardale died on March 1, 1775 at age seventy. His publications helped shape English Midlands Unitarians and influenced Unitarian theologian Joseph Priestley. The church he served, the Oat Street Chapel in Evesham, continues to espouse progressive Unitarianism.

IOWA CANTERBURY FORUM

Canterbury Forums are held once a month via Zoom on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. This month's date is Sunday, March 30th. The topic and speaker will be:

Evangelicals in the Trump Administration – Doug Smith

If you would like to be added to the list for these free programs that are open to the public, contact the Forum Coordinators at: <canterburyforum@gmail.com>. Login information for the Forum's Zoom programs will be sent out via email during the week immediately preceding each program.



The Annual Meeting of the Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists will be held on Sunday, May 18th at 11:15 a.m. A regular Sunday service will precede this meeting.



SOME OBSERVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH INCLUDE:

National Hockey month National Clean Up Your IRS Act month National Nutrition month National Eye Donor month National March Into Literacy month National Ethics Awareness month



If you are one who likes good food, mark your calendars for Sunday, March 9th when the Jubilee United Methodist Church in Waterloo will again serve the delicious *Le Christopher*'s Southern Cuisine meal at noon at their church. Think about gathering some friends and carpooling.



Support for the CVUU's *Little Food Pantry* and *Little Lending Library* is ongoing throughout the year. Our neighbors, and the children who are coming home from school, can use nourishment for minds and bodies especially since Phil the Groundhog has predicted six more weeks of winter! The CVUU LFP is one of the Social Action charities we support once a year, but it's always the season for sharing.



On March 6, 1888 the beloved American writer *Louisa May Alcott* died at age fifty-five in Boston. Although she did not formally join a Unitarian church, her beliefs were Unitarian.