



*The Practice of Trust*

Dear CUF folks,

For weeks in February, when the skies were gloomy and the North wind cut through my three or four layers of clothing, it seemed unbelievable that in time I would be walking our dog and worrying about sunscreen coverage. It took effort to reassure myself that the sun was above those clouds, and that the earth's turning meant that spring would come. At some moments since the new administration took power, I have felt similarly disoriented and unnaturally stuck in a dark, forbidding time. As with the bitter cold of last month, I know I'm not alone in these feelings. The trust we have had in the federal government is weakening with every assault on laws protecting the rights of all but the richest few. How will we practice trust in these times? I think we need to look closely within and around us for what is worthy of our trust, just as we search for the signs of spring coming up through the snow.

*It's a good thing to have all the props pulled out from under us occasionally. It gives us some sense of what is rock under our feet, and what is sand.*

*~Madeleine L'Engle*

This month, we will be looking for the rock under our feet, and we may need to dig down through a lot of sand to find it. As Unitarian Universalists, we may look first to our values, with love at the center. The values of justice, equity and pluralism are especially in need of excavation. We may look to our relationships with each other in the Fellowship – it's a good time to dig out our covenants and revitalize them. My upcoming departure is another motivation for looking for what we trust. We can trust in the shared ministry model that has brought us to this time of healthy leadership and collaboration and that it continues beyond my tenure as minister. We can trust that with this transition comes more opportunities for growth. Let's look for the blossoms heralding spring, knowing there soon will come a time for tending to their flourishing.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah'.