



## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ APRIL 2019



Friends in Christ:

Last month I joined with other members of our congregation as part of an interfaith group of over 200 people who gathered in a vigil to express our support for the Church of the Nazarene. The presence of some of our congregation spoke a message of unity and support from all of us.

By now you've probably know that the Church of the Nazarene was the target of racist and anti-Semitic vandalism at the beginning of the March. It might not have come as a surprise. This church is known for its ministry with immigrants and refugees in Iowa City. Having developed partner congregations that work with Hispanic, Chinese, and African communities, it is, in many ways, a model for what a "house of prayer for all nations" might look like in our time. Our congregation has supported that work and their pastor, Teresa Stecker, spoke at an adult education session here last fall.

In some sense, it seems as though it was only a matter time before someone—even in Iowa City—caught the growing wave of fear and nationalism and white supremacy and took matters into their own hands. We can only be thankful that they resorted to words rather than weapons.

At the vigil Ousainou Keita, the president of the Iowa City Mosque, voiced the strong Muslim support for that Christian congregation. He spoke as one who knows personally of the harassment that Muslims in Iowa City have experienced. And it was a powerful moment when this immigrant reminded all of us that such hatred was not the American way.

Our friend, Rabbi Esther Huegenholz gave voice to the Jewish and Christian imperative to welcome the stranger.

And we all left with a renewed commitment not only to stay united and to support one another but also to engage in the difficult and important work of loving our enemies.

Together we announced an end to business as usual—the hatred and division that is growing in our nation and our world—as we committed ourselves to God's powerful way of love.

It was, of course only a matter of days before we woke to the news that those demonic forces of hatred and division had found new expression half a world away in New Zealand, as a white supremacist murdered 49 Muslims and wounded dozens more as they attended their Friday prayers.

This was the context in which Congregational UCC presented a performance of *Hot Tamale Louie*, in our sanctuary on March 24. This music work composed by UI jazz professor, John Rapson is an exploration of the immigrant experience, of interfaith relations, and of what it means to be an American. With financial support from our Engagement Fund, we were able to provide free tickets to everyone, resulting in a diverse audience of many faiths and from many nations. At the reception that followed, donations were received to support the work of IC Compassion with refugees and immigrants in our community. Over \$500 dollars were given. Thanks to everyone who made this possible!

In "Citizen Kahn," the 2016 *New Yorker* article that was the basis for this Rapson's work, the author Kathryn Shulz concluded: "Over and over, we forget what being American means. The radical premise of our nation is that one people can be made from many, yet in each new generation we find reasons to limit who those "many" can be—to wall off access to America, literally or figuratively. That impulse usually finds its roots in claims about who we used to be, but nativist nostalgia is a fantasy. We have always been a pluralist nation, with a past far richer and stranger than we choose to recall."

(Continued Next Page)

### Message from Bill cont.

I am aware that it is customary for ministers to write newsletter articles about Easter this time of year. Maybe that's what you were expecting. And maybe that's really what this is: a reminder that when we face the worst in life, the worst in our community, and, yes, the worst in ourselves, we can also find new life and new possibilities.

As the process theologian Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki reminds us: "The edges of God are tragedy; the depths of God are joy, beauty, resurrection, life. Resurrection answers crucifixion; life answers death."

As Lent leads to Easter this month, let us live into that reality.

*Peace,*

*Bill*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### IMPORTANT DATES IN LENT AND EASTER

- April 7 - Spring Music Sunday, CROP Walk in the afternoon
- April 14 - Palm Sunday - Worship with Distribution of Palms, 10:15;  
Children's Presentation
- April 18 - Maundy Thursday - Congregational Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; Worship in the  
Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.; Communion and Service of  
Tenebrae
- April 19 - Good Friday - Worship in the Sanctuary at Noon
- April 21 - Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at 7:30; Breakfast will follow; Festival  
Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 am.

### UCC SPECIAL SPRING MUSIC SUNDAY, APRIL 7



Alice Parker was born in Boston, MA, on December 16, 1925, to Mary Stuart and Gordon Parker. As a child, she learned to play piano, violin and clarinet. She attended Smith College, graduating in 1947 with a double major in organ and composition. She went on to study choral conducting at Juilliard then became a teacher while collaborating with Robert Shaw on the arrangement of materials to be recorded by his chorale.

Parker founded the Melodious Accord Fellowship Program which brought young musicians from all over the world to study with her. She is the recipient of six honorary doctorates as well as grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aaron Copeland Fund for Music and the American Music Center.

Parker has composed over 500 pieces of music, including operas, song cycles, cantatas, choral suites and anthems. Today's special music selection, *An Easter Rejoicing*, was published in 1972.

Her notes on *An Easter Rejoicing* describes what she hoped the piece would bring to her audiences:

*After the solemn mood of the Lenten season, Easter should shine forth with unbounded joy. Yet happy music is not easily found these days: audiences demand more sober stuff. This piece, without apology, combines old hymns and new songs with but one aim: to provide an expression of exultant joy for those who celebrate the Easter Feast...For me the joy of the Resurrection is reflected in the rebirth of the natural world around us: in a word, spring. So, the Cantata entwines these twin themes: reflections on the risen Christ, and descriptions of his earthly garden.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



On Palm Sunday, April 14, we will dedicate our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. This offering has long been an important part of the life of our congregation. One Great Hour is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. It began in the Episcopal Church in 1946 when a goal of one million dollars per year was set for World Relief. That year members were challenged to raise “one million dollars in one hour.” Since 1949 this offering has united Christians of many denominations, including the UCC, in a common cause.

In a world where communities are being displaced by the catastrophes of war, famine, and natural disaster, our congregation joins with many others in standing in solidarity with those who seek to move beyond the trauma of displacement toward the promise of healing and peace. Your generous gift will support the relief work of not only the UCC but also many other denominations united in caring for refugees, in providing medical care, and in disaster recovery efforts. You can watch videos about the work that OGHS makes possible here: [http://www.ucc.org/oghs\\_oghs-videos](http://www.ucc.org/oghs_oghs-videos). Let us join in this great tradition and give generously, not because we have to, but because we can.



### CHILDREN’S PALM SUNDAY PRESENTATION

The Sunday School children will offer the ‘Introit’ at the Palm Sunday worship service, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. It will be a re-enactment of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem on the donkey and the reception he received by the crowd of followers and believers that beautiful morning so long ago.

Please join us at worship and help celebrate this beloved story of Jesus.

### FLOWERS FOR EASTER BRING COLOR TO THE SANCTUARY

Each year on Easter Sunday members and friends of Congregational UCC provide flowers for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones or to honor someone. Because so many people enjoyed the burst of color last Easter, our Diaconate invites you to bring any type of spring flower—lilies, yes, but also consider tulips, daffodils, crocuses, or any other spring flower. *If you would like to have the name(s) of those remembered in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please get that information to the church office (337-4301) by Thursday, April 18.*



### HAVE BREAKFAST WITH US ON EASTER MORNING

Join with UCC members for Easter Sunday Breakfast starting at 8:15 a.m. The Men’s Fellowship will be cooking pancakes, eggs and more! This is free and everyone is welcome! The breakfast will be followed by the Festival Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. featuring brass music.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### JOHNSON COUNTY CROP WALK—SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Spring arrives and we get out our walking shoes for the annual CROP Walk for Hunger Relief. This year's walk will be held on next Sunday, April 7, starting at 1:30 p.m., beginning in the dining room at the 1105 Project, 1105 Gilbert Court, next to the **Crisis Services and Food Bank**. Many Congregational UCC Youth and Adults know this as the location of the Free Lunch Program.

To sign up for the CROP Walk and get a sponsor sheet, please talk with Paula Forest, our Walk Coordinator, or call the church office, 337-4301.



### FASTRAC CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR DOCUMENTARY

Congregational UCC has been a proud supporter of FasTrac and their annual Civil Rights tour for over a decade. There will be a documentary on the 10 years of the Fastrac Civil Rights - Historical Black Colleges & Universities tour on April 4, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sycamore Mall Marcus Theaters.

Check out a preview of the film on the City of Iowa City Facebook page.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERFAITH BUILD BE A PART OF IT!

Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity is beginning construction of the first Interfaith Build home, at 2774 Blazing Star Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. The start date is March 30, with a Wall Build event involving 30-40 volunteers from Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church, major project donors. Persons from Faith communities of diverse religious affiliation will continue construction through completion in mid-July. Shifts will be from 8-12 and 1-5 every Thursday, Friday and Saturday (weather permitting). Our Congregational UCC has membership on the Interfaith Committee working on this project. We need volunteers from our congregation to assist in this home-building. If you are willing to volunteer—specific construction skills not required as there are many associated tasks besides hammer and nails ones—please contact Pam Willard (319-530-6584), **pamela-willard@uiowa.edu**, or add your name to the sign-up sheet in Rockwood Hall.



### OLD CAPITOL CRITERIUM HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28

The arrival of spring brings renewed activity to downtown Iowa City—Friday evening music, movies on the Pentacrest and more. Some events occur on Sunday morning and impact traffic patterns and parking around Congregational UCC.

The Old Capitol Criterium, the annual bike race, will be held on Sunday, April 28. This year, there will be access to the church, including the Jefferson Street parking lot, which can be reached by driving south on Clinton Street from Market Street on that Sunday morning. Clinton Street will be closed between Burlington and Jefferson Streets, however. Traffic will be rerouted and street parking will be limited. All of this means that it will be a great morning to walk a little farther to worship! Start out a little earlier—or ride your bike—and join us for worship that morning at 10:15.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### CONGREGATIONAL UCC AND CLIMATE CHANGE WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

In January and February, with the leadership of many of our members, the Sunday Morning Adult Education sessions looked at climate change from a variety of perspectives. The sessions were very well attended, filled with information and lively discussion. Those who attended the March 3 session responded to the question, “Where do we go from here?” in a number of ways. Below are some of their thoughts and suggestions:

What was it that brought you out through awful weather in January and February?

The topics  
The presenters—they had their feet on the ground  
An openness  
A sense of reality  
Appreciated the connections with worship and sermons  
Tangible action—going electric  
Provided hope  
Learning about the topic—University: Hawk Pride!



Well, where do we go from here?

Individual actions/Policy changes    Political action  
Energy Audit of the church building    Solar shingles  
Consumption ~~BOTTLED WATER~~ ~~AIR FRESHENERS~~ ~~COMMUNION CUPS~~  
Letter writing Ideas    Advocacy    Bipartisan work    Individual/ Group  
Teach the language of faith    Job retraining    Oil/gas changes    Wind—Arcadia  
Children’s perspective    Unitarians    Green Committee    Book Group  
Newsletter articles    Bike Rack    How to discuss issues    Bulletin Boards

There’s a lot to consider and a lot of action that we can take as individuals and as a community. Look and listen in the coming months for further developments.

### STORIES FROM THE US MEXICO BORDER AND THE STATE OF ASYLUM POLICY

Wednesday, April 3, 7-8 p.m. Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Rooms A, B, C. An event featuring the personal stories of recent asylum seekers from Central America and the new Director of the Human Rights Clinic at Drake University Law School.

### IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY 2019 Clifford and Maxine Manning Annual Lecture Series “Real Conversation about Migration in Your Community” Sunday, April 7 – 1:30-5:30 pm

Iowa Wesleyan University invites you to attend the *2019 Manning Lecture and Migration Forum* on **Sunday, April 7 at 1:30 pm in the Chapel Auditorium**. Rev. Alexia Salvatierra will deliver the keynote address, “Faithful Responses to Migration.” The lecture will be followed by two workshop sessions including presenters from a wide range of groups involved with migration in Iowa: Mount Pleasant Chamber Alliance, the Iowa Department of Human Rights, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Justice for our Neighbors, IowaWINS, and many more! Free and open to the public. For more information [joy.lapp@iw.edu](mailto:joy.lapp@iw.edu) or 319-385-6403, [www.iw.edu/immigration](http://www.iw.edu/immigration).

### TAIZÉ EVENSONG

An ecumenical Taizé service will be held on **Sunday, April 7 at 6:00 p.m. at New Song Episcopal Church**, 912 Twentieth Ave., in Coralville. The hour-long, contemplative service will include chants, silence, readings from varied sources, and prayer for the world. Gatherings will continue at that time and place on the first Sunday of each month. Contact Linda Kroon ([lstewartkroon@gmail.com](mailto:lstewartkroon@gmail.com)) or Dorothy Whiston (319-321-7920) for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

### MEMBER OUTINGS

The Women's Lunch will be on **Thursday, April 25, beginning at 11:45 at Monica's in Coralville.** Please call or email the office to reserve your seat at the table! This month the Men's Breakfast will be held on the **SECOND SATURDAY—April 13.** Join us at 8:00 a.m. at the **Encounter Café at 376 S. Clinton St., Iowa**

### THINK AHEAD FOR ANNUAL OUTERWEAR DISTRIBUTION

Each year in the fall, Congregational UCC joins with other congregations in providing winter coats for people of all ages, especially children. As winter items start to go on sale in the stores, now is a great time to let your dollar go further and purchase coats. Please store them at your home until the fall when they can be brought to the church and then taken to the distribution site.



### REFLECTIONS FROM A PASTORAL COUNSELOR.....

If the ultimate faith question is: what can we trust and obey without being idolatrous? Perhaps the penultimate one is: what is the purpose of life? That second question has a rather simple answer: relationships--with God, neighbor, self. What complicates the issue is the implementation. How do we go about doing relationships with at least some mutual satisfaction?

Some years ago during a college summer camp job, I went exploring on a day off. I came upon a medium-sized small town and was struck by the simple but appealing architecture of many buildings, especially with several of the churches. There was a groundskeeper working outside at one of the churches, so I stopped, and we conversed. I explained how I appreciated the appearance of his and other churches in the area. He then informed me there were nine churches in this town, all of the same denomination. And each had broken away from the previous congregation.

Such is a reflection of church dynamics for most of its history with some more recent mergers notwithstanding. Presumably, each new start thought it could convey the faith a little bit better than the former group.

How do we allow for individuality and freedom, while facilitating connection and community in our relationships? Diversity and unity? Uniqueness and commonality? Therein lies the complexity.

Bruce

(The Rev. Bruce D. Williams is a pastoral counselor at the Community Pastoral Counseling Service (CPCS), which is comprised of six churches in the Iowa City area including this one. CPCS is at 30 N. Clinton St., Iowa City, IA, 52245, 319-337-2519.)





# Books for Adults

## “One Person, No Vote; How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy”

By Carol Anderson

Published in 2018

This book is currently being read by the Social Justice Study Group

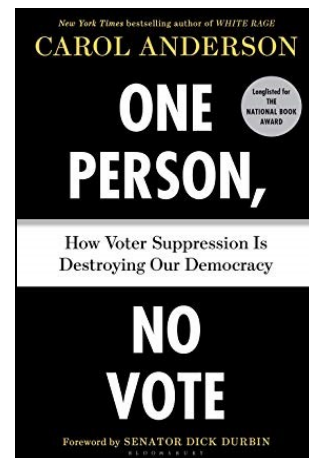
Quoted from the book cover:

Carol Anderson in "One Person, No Vote" chronicles ... the rollbacks to African American participation in the vote since the 2013 Supreme Court decision that eviscerated the Voting Rights Acts of 1965. Known as the Shelby ruling, this decision effectively allowed districts with a demonstrated history of racial discrimination to change voting requirements without approval from the Department of Justice.

Focusing on the aftermath of Shelby, Anderson follows the astonishing story of government-dictated racial discrimination unfolding before our very eyes as more and more states adopt voter suppression laws. In gripping, enlightening detail she explains how voter suppression works, from photo ID requirements to gerrymandering to poll closures. And with vivid characters, she explores the resistance: the organizing, activism, and court battles to restore the basic right to vote to all Americans as the nation gears up for the 2018 midterm elections."

Carol Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chair of African American Studies at Emory University. She is the author of "White Rage" which won the National Book Critics Circle Award. She was named a Guggenheim Fellow for Constitutional Studies, and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Judy Doorenbos  
Library Committee



# Books for Pre-Teens and Teenagers

## "A Long Walk to Water"

By Linda Sue Park

Based on a true story.

Nya and Salva are both living in Sudan. Nya in 2008-2009, Salva in the 1980's. This book tells the story of each Naya and Salva and how they encounter each other in the late 2000's.

Salva lives a difficult life as a boy who has been separated from his family during the Sudanese civil war. In order to avoid being sold into slavery, he walks from Sudan to Ethiopia. He spends many years in refugee camps, before being allowed to go to America.

Once in America, his life changes drastically for the better.

Nya lives in the Nuer tribe. Her job is to gather water. She makes the walk to the pond two times a day. It is a long walk. Water is scarce in her village. One day some men come to her village and talk about a well. She does not believe this is possible. Could it be? Who are these men?

"Tragic and Harrowing"--Publisher's Weekly starred review

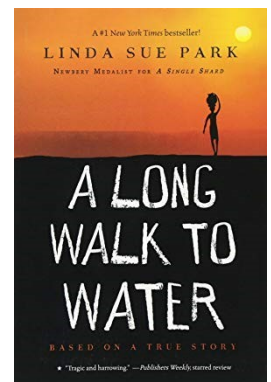
"Young readers will be stunned by the triumphant climax"

-- Booklist starred review

Linda Sue Park based this story largely on the childhood experiences of Salva Dut, who was born in Sudan. He now makes his U.S. home in Rochester, New York, where Ms. Park also lives.

Linda Sue Park has written picture book texts and poetry as well as fiction for young readers. She worked as a journalist, a copywriter, and a teacher of English as a Second Language, and she now writes full time

Courtney Nelson, Library Committee





# Books for Children

## Easter

*Our church library has a number of books with an Easter theme. These two books and some others will be on the book cart in Rockwood Hall. Others will be in the library on the small portable shelves.*

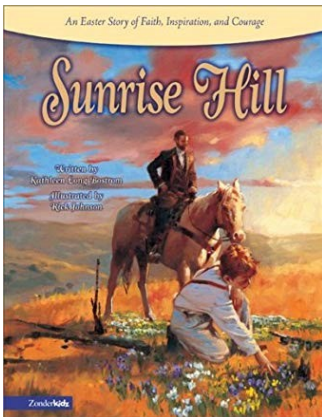
***Easter in the Garden*** by Pamela Kennedy, Illustrated by David Wenzel.  
Nashville: Ideals Children's Books, 2008. Ages 4 and up, Grades Pre – 2

This story is a retelling of the first Easter from the eyes of a young child named Micah. Micah has climbed a tree to check on a bird's nest full of eggs. He overhears disturbing news and runs to his mother with fear. She explains Jesus' death in simple terms understandable to him. Several days later Micah overhears more news – this time it is the joy of Jesus' resurrection.



Parents were positive in their reviews of this book which relates the real meaning of Easter.

***Sunrise Hill*** by Kathleen Long Bostrom, Illustrated by Rich Johnson.  
Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkids, 2004. Ages 4-8, Grades 2-3.



An Easter story of Faith, Inspiration, and Courage, it is a more contemporary tale. Ten-year-old Caleb admires his uncle, Josh, a traveling preacher who convinces people in the farming community to build a church on Sunrise Hill. Two weeks before Easter lightning strikes the nearly finished church and burns it to the ground, testing the faith of all.

“Bostrom interprets the traditional theme of rebirth within a specific community, evidently in the late nineteenth century, and gives a child a pivotal role in restoring faith...parents and Sunday School teachers will value its depiction of Christians whose faith has been tested or even lost, then restored.” (*Booklist* review)

Ruth Kuntz  
Library Committee



4/1 Bill Hoefer  
Ellis Chen

4/6 Jerry Walker

4/7 Del Brown

4/9 Grace Whittaker

4/12 Mary Lea Kruse  
Darius Ghabel-

4/15 Magell Schumm

4/19 Ann Ghabel

4/22 Randee Fieselmann

4/25 Patty Roberts  
Jacob Koepnick

4/26 Anna Whittaker

4/27 Robert McFarland

4/29 Jo Bowers  
Maggie Keogh

4/30 Oscar Lewis

# APRIL 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 - Diaconate 6:00 pm - CE Board 6:30 - Mission Board 7:00 pm	3 - Weekly Meditation Noon - FRC Luncheon Noon - Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	4	5	6
7 <b>Worship Service@ 10:15</b> <b>Spring Music Sunday</b> - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School 9:15 - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall After Worship - CROP WALK 1:30	8 - Knitting Group 2 pm	9 - Staff Meeting 11:00	10 - Weekly Meditation Noon - FRC Luncheon Noon	11	12	13 - Men's Breakfast @ The Encounter Café at 736 Clinton Ave at 8:00
14 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>OGHS Offering</b> <b>Children's Pageant</b> <b>Worship Service@ 10:15</b> - Choir 9:00 - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15	15	16 - Membership 5:30 - Trustees 7:00 - Stewardship 7:00	17 - Weekly Meditation Noon	18 - FRC Luncheon Noon - Maundy Thurs. Dinner 6:00 - Maundy Thurs. Service 7:00	19 Good Friday Worship Service Noon	20
21 <b>Easter Sunrise Service @ 7</b> <b>Breakfast 8 am</b> <b>Easter Service 10:15</b> - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	22 - Knitting Group 2 pm	23 - Church Council 7:00 pm	24 - Weekly Meditation Noon	25 - Women's Lunch @ Monica's. 11:45 am - FRC Luncheon Noon	26	27
28 <b>Worship Service @ 10:15</b> - Choir 9:00 am - Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 am - Fellowship in Rockwood Hall	29	30				

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 North Clinton Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52245-1700**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER



**PARKING INFORMATION**

Parking is available evenings and all day Sunday at the IMU or North Hall Parking Ramps.

Ask your usher for a voucher (or get one from the church office).

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

10:15 a.m.      Worship  
11:15 a.m.      Fellowship

Church Office is open Monday - Friday 9-3pm

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>The Rev. William Lovin</b>
Music Director:	Kristin Ramseyer
Children's Music Director	Avery Nabholz
Organist:	Bill Crouch
Director of Church School:	The Rev. Patte Henderson
Office Manager:	Nan Martin
Financial Secretary:	Sharyn Huriaux Reitz
Communication Assistant:	Christina Patramanis
Custodians:	Douglas Herrera Claudia Landaverde

**HOW TO CONTACT US**

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm  
**Phone:** 319-337-4301

**E-mail:**

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Financial Secretary.....sharynreitz@gmail.com  
Music Director..... kristin-ramseyer@uiowa.edu  
Children's Music Dir.....avery-nabholz@uiowa.edu  
Dir of Church School .....uccicce@uccic.org  
Communication Assist.... ..cpatramanis@yahoo.com

**Visit our Web Site:** [www.uccic.org](http://www.uccic.org)