

The Voice

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DECATUR TX

April 2021



Pastoral Transition — pg 4

Hear all about Pastor Cassie's exciting new opportunity.

Honoring Martin — pg 6

Let's celebrate Martin's many years of service here at FUMC Decatur!

Cornerstone — pg 8

Read how these two Sunday school classes have joined together for vibrant fellowship.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 1

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 2 @6:00pm, in the Sanctuary

Downtown Sunrise Easter Worship
Sunday, April 4 @7:00am, Decatur Town Square

Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration
Sunday, April 4 @9:45am, in the MAC Building

Office Closed
Monday, April 5

Preschool Board Meeting
Monday, April 5 @5:00pm, Room 209

Staff Meeting
Thursday, April 15 @12:00pm, in Fellowship Hall

Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 20 @6:00pm, Asbury Hall (MAC)

Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry
Saturday, May 1 @7:00am, Church Parking Lot

WEEKLY EVENTS

Traditional Worship Service
Sundays @8:30am and 10:50am, Sanctuary

Pecan Street Mission Service
Sundays @10:00am, Asbury Hall (MAC)

Student Ministry MAC Nights
Sundays @5:00pm, Fire Hall (MAC)

Wednesday Bible Study
Wednesdays @10:00am, Virtual via Zoom

Chancel Bell Rehearsal
Wednesdays @5:30pm Sanctuary

Find the online church calendar at
DecaturMethodist.org/Calendar

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4- Patina Berardi, Florence O'Bryan,
Jenn Sanders

5- Theresa Thornton, Shirley Watson

6- Robbie Cartwright

8- Meiwen Brannan, Regina Stone

9- Emily Boyd, Joran Walker

10- Carolyn Rhea

11- Ellie Miller, Luke Summers

12- Emma McAlister, Heather Watson

13- Ron Silvers

14- Kennedy Hafer, Alden Sandford

15- Joyce Kirk, Rosemary Martin

16- Dave Evans

17- Gordon Hofstra, Jeffrey Short

18- Zachary Knox, Sis Renshaw

19- Ronnie Gage, Madi Moreland

20- Bob Pangrac

21- Mike Stone

22- Jaxon Wilson

24- Trey Klose

25- Michael Little

28- Judy Deaton

29- Lynda Trow

30- Cindi Fusco, B.V. Hammond, Trey Milliman

Want to see your groups and events
on the church calendar?
Send your meeting information and request to
info@decaturmethodist.org

STAFF DEVOTIONAL

FROM CHILDREN'S CORDINATOR, DIANE HOWELL

My father talked of it over and over when I was a child. I printed it on blackboards, whiteboards and bulletin boards from Tennessee, to California, to Maryland, to Texas teaching it or preaching it to preschoolers, high schoolers and college students. I have tried my best to live by it.

THE GOLDEN RULE – *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* Romans 13:9

When someone asks me what my religion looks like, the Golden Rule covers it all. Love yourself and your neighbor because God first loved us. The commandments “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet” and whatever other commandments there may be are summed up in this one commandment. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus says this is the great commandment. In fact, it is so important, you can find it not only once, nor twice but eight different times in the Bible.

Our father, may we all be a blessing to our neighbors. Not just those who are close to us, but also to those we communicate with, even briefly or far away. May we have compassion for those we love as well as those who may slight us, as we never know what cross they might bear in their lives. May we be helpful to those we know and to those who are strangers to us. May we always, always love our neighbors as we love ourselves. For this is the great commandment.

Blessings in Christ,
Diane Howell

PRAYER REQUESTS

Tim Woodruff

All affected by the winter storms

The 30+ Churches in NTC with
plumbing and water damage

Brian Knox

Donivee Halas

Bobby Terrell

Dennis Irwin

Edwin Doggett

Asian American Victims in Atlanta

Shopper Victims in Boulder, CO

Clint Logue

Chad Walker Shot in the Line of Duty

Email your prayer requests to Prayer@DecaturMethodist.org

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

Community Easter Sunrise Worship

April 4, 7:00am

at the Decatur Downtown Square
Coffee provided by Trinity Street Coffee Bar

PECANSTREETMISSION.ORG

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE

8:30 and 10:50am
In-Person in the Sanctuary
and Live Streamed on
[Facebook.com/FUMCDecaturTX](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCDecaturTX)

To help us best accommodate, please RSVP
for Easter Worship by emailing
info@decaturmethodist.org



Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration

In a celebration of salvation and new life, all children, infant-5th grade, are invited to an Easter Event including an egg hunt, Easter activities, and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Student Ministry will help with hiding the eggs. This all takes place on Easter Sunday, April 4th at 9:45am in The MAC building. Fun for all!

Celebrating Our Pastor, Cassie Wade

One of the most beautiful and most difficult things about the Methodist church is the appointment system. The UMC's unique appointment system of deploying clergy dates back to John Wesley. In the early days of Methodism in America, a pastor might be sent to serve multiple churches in a large region. This practice became the basis for the system The United Methodist Church continues to use today.

Our Senior Pastor, Cassie Wade, has been appointed to serve as the District Superintendent of the East District effective July 1, 2021.

"I am excited about this opportunity to serve the churches of the North Texas Annual Conference in a particular way during a season filled with opportunity and challenge. At the same time, I am sad that our time in ministry together will be short. Our season together has presented plenty of challenges, and you have been resilient and persevered through some of the most difficult times in the history of the American Church. Our time together gives me assurance that you will continue to thrive as the Decatur Methodist Family in the next season as well.

It is not time to say good-bye; that will come later. Now is the time to put our heads down and continue to find ways to serve our neighbors, grow our new ministries such as those coming out of Pecan Street Mission, and work toward safely opening our campus during the next phase of the pandemic. I look forward to this important work with you and also to loving conversations with each of you."

-Senior Pastor, Cassie Wade

We look forward to celebrating Cassie's ministry on her last Sunday with us, **June 6**. Look out for more information in the coming months about how you can help celebrate Cassie and her husband Kelly and this new journey that God has planned for them.

Getting to Know Our Incoming Pastor, Donny Haywood

We are also very excited to announce our new incoming Pastor, Donald Haywood. Bishop Mike McKee has appointed Rev. Donny Haywood to be the next Senior Pastor effective July 1, 2021. Pastor Donny and his wife Christi were introduced to the Church Council last month. Below is a letter from him and a family picture. We are all excited about getting to know Pastor Donny and Christi and will welcome them warmly on their first **Sunday, July 11**.



Greetings,

My name is Donald Haywood, but I go by Donny. I am married to Christi, who is currently teaching English at Saint Jo High School. We will celebrate our eighteenth anniversary in August. We have 4 daughters- Cortney Sampert, and husband Thomas, Cassidy Berry, and husband Malik, Emily Austin, and husband Brian, and Megan Haywood, and her boyfriend Frankie.

I graduated from high school in Sherman in 1986. I graduated from Texas A&M Commerce in 2011, with a bachelor's degree in Sociology, and from SMU Perkins School of Theology in 2015, with my MDiv. Prior to ministry I worked in the grocery industry and worked for Tom Thumb Food and Pharmacy for fifteen years and Blue Bell Creameries for 7.5 years.

I began my ministry at First UMC of Van Alstyne in late 2005, as youth minister. I was appointed as Associate Pastor in 2009. I received my first Senior Pastor appointment at The First UMC of Tom Bean in 2011, where I served for 5.5 years. I was appointed mid-year to The First UMC of Nocona, March 2016, where I currently serve. I was Ordained an Elder in Full Connection on June 5, 2017.

I am the Board Chair for the Prothro Center on Lake Texoma and serve the Board of Camps and Retreats. I also serve as a coach to churches in the Northwest District assisting congregations to implement the SAS (Simple Accountable Structure) for their leadership structure.

I describe my leadership style to be vision based and collaboratively implemented. I believe it is vital that we continue to find ways to make the Scripture accessible to all persons and seek to include all ages in the life of the church to insure the future will be vital. I have a love for the youth of our society, and I am always excited to foster relationships to the church and to Jesus Christ. I am the kind of pastor that looks for ways of being in the community to engage and help to meet the needs of the people. Also, by being a consistent presence in community people get acquainted with the pastor and the church.

Our family volunteers every year at SEEK Camp, and we participate in The Walk to Emmaus. In our free time, we enjoy spending time with our kids, road trips, cruises, and FOOD!

Blessings,

Reverend Donny Haywood



32 Years of Singing and Still Going Strong! *Honoring Martin Woodruff*

FUMC Decatur is excited to celebrate Martin Woodruff's 32 years as song leader for our early service, as well as choir member for late service (for 42 years) and 20 years as our treasurer.

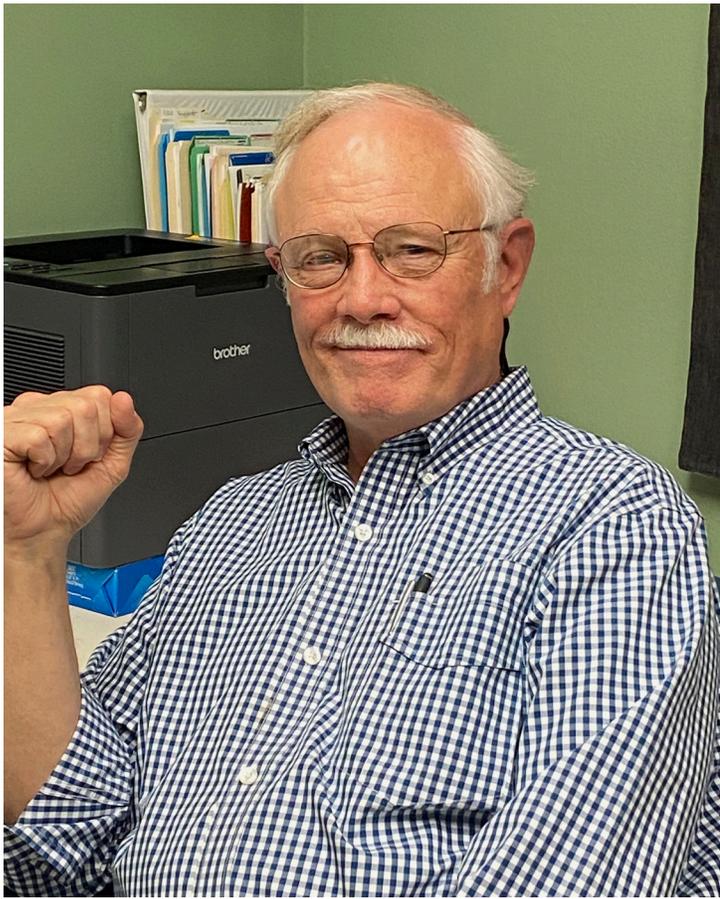
Martin was born, raised, and educated in Decatur. After serving in the U.S. army for 9 years in Vietnam and stateside locations, he returned to Decatur to raise his family. Employed by Poco Graphite for 20+ years, one of his mentors suggested he work with local nonprofit organizations. Subsequently, Martin became the treasurer for FUMC Decatur and has held this position for 20 years. He has also served on the board of United Way and its predecessor since 1993 and as Executive Director for the last 18 years where he continues to work with other nonprofit organizations to meet the needs of Wise County residents. Last but not least, he was mayor for 8 ½ years, serving until November 2020.

When asked how he has managed to stay engaged in these duties for so long, Martin explained that

he has always felt opportunity for growth and contribution. Each day he sees something important needing to be done. Looking back on his professional and civic successes, he believes God has been directing his steps all along the way. We are grateful life has put him in our midst and we recognize his inspiration to our congregation.

Quick Martin Facts:

- **Favorite bible verse** – Jesus' two commandments: Love the Lord God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself- Martin's benchmark when making decisions.
- **Favorite hymn** - How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord.
- **Significant memory of FUMC** – Martin and Jana joined our church officially the same day John Taylor preached his last Sunday sermon at FUMC Decatur.
- **Little known fact** – Martin loves to tell stories.



Scholarship Applications



Senior Scholarships applications are available for pick up in the church office.

Completed applications must be returned no later than April 30th.

Vacation Bible School

June 14-17 • 5:30-7:30pm



This summer, VBS will invite children to be strong in the Lord while they explore how we put on the Armor of God! Kids, ages 3 yrs–5th grade, will dive into Old and New Testament stories and learn how the Armor of God works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Each Day will include opportunities to engage in crafts, music, stories, and games. Look out for more details on how to register your child on our church website, DecaturMethodist.org.

VBS takes a lot of helping hands to make happen!

Volunteers are needed to lead activity stations and guide groups of children through rotations. Can't help that week but still want to be involved? We will also need help prepping activities and decorating prior to the week of VBS. Youth volunteers are needed as well! If you are interested in helping with this amazing church-wide event, **please contact Diane Howell, at children@decaturmethoist.org**. The precious faces of the joyful children will make all of your work worth it!



First United Methodist Preschool Decatur, Texas



Preschool Enrollment

It is time to enroll for the 2021/2022 school year! At the First United Methodist Preschool, we offer classes for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. We follow a curriculum that is play focused and allows us to teach letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and so much more! Students also participate in chapel time where they sing songs together and learn Bible lessons and stories. We are so excited to have you join our preschool. You can find an application on the church website, DecaturMethodist.org/Preschool Check out our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/FUMPDecatur](https://www.facebook.com/FUMPDecatur), to get a sneak peak into what a day at First United Methodist Preschool is like. For more information or to take a tour, please contact Amber Terrell at 940-390-9307 or email preschool@decaturmethoist.org.



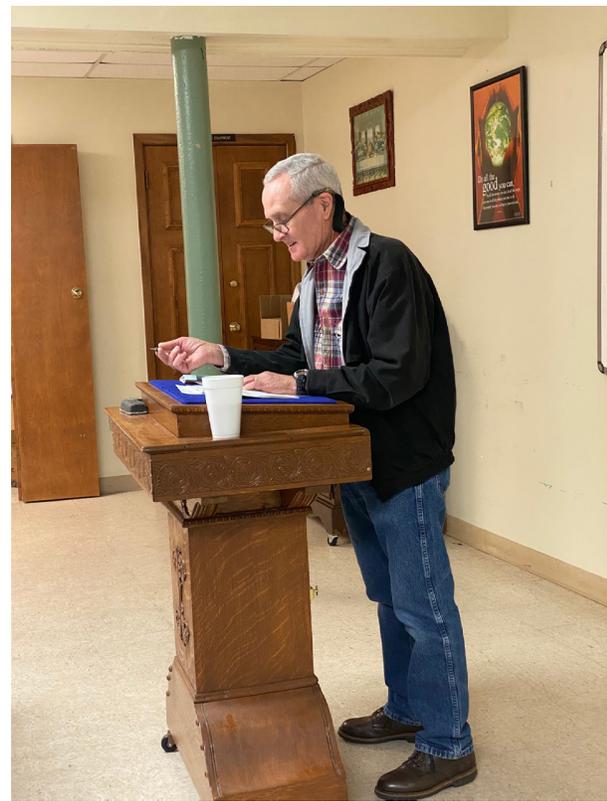
A New Thing is Happening Cornerstone Class

The vote was unanimous, the new class name would be Cornerstone. Class leader, Clark Waggner, led the discussion and the vote on March 21, 2021. The name was suggested following a lesson about cornerstones. Doris Goodwin offered this additional information, "A cornerstone is placed at the junction of two walls bringing them together." It was an obvious analogy for folks from primarily two classes who came together out of convenience.

Previously, the Men's Class gathered in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and a weekly Bible lesson Sunday mornings once we were allowed to gather in addition to Worship. During Covid restrictions, the small group of men invited some women from the Character Builder Class to join them because their class was now meeting on Mondays via Zoom. A new energy and purpose was unfolding and eventually others joined the growing class.

More than 25 people are now gathering weekly, some of whom have no history with either class. They sing, pray, discuss service opportunities, and open the Bible together. Join them for coffee and more in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 9:40 am.

The Lord says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43.17



Staff Feature: Alea Peña

Nursery Coordinator

What encourages you in your work? What or who drives your passion?

What encourages me most in my work as nursery coordinator is the future of our faith. Working with the youngest of our congregation roots my faith in the tremendous responsibility we carry to build a firm faith foundation for our children. I am inspired by the promise of our faith when we practice seeing life through the eyes of a child.

What is your favorite Bible Verse(s) and why?

I routinely return to Proverbs 3: 5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.”

What book is currently on your nightstand?

The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg

If you could throw a fantasy dinner party, who would you invite and what would you ask them?

Fred Rogers-- “So, what did you learn most from a life devoted to children?”

Dr. Phil-- “Why, do I have trouble putting past negative experiences behind me?”

Theodore Precisde (my maternal grandfather)-- “What do you wish you could have told me at age 7?”

Tell us about your family

I’m quite honored to be called “mom” by my two children. Madeline and Marcus are both Decatur graduates pursuing their goals. Madeline is a hall director for Baylor University and Marcus is currently seeking his undergrad at Texas A&M University in political science. I’m blessed to have my wonderful parents close by and no matter my age, I seek their wisdom.

If you had 24 uninterrupted hours to spend, what would you do? And who would you spend it with?

I love antiquing and garage sales. Twenty-four uninterrupted hours with like-minded friends searching for hidden treasure would be bliss.

What is one question you would ask at the Pearly Gates?

“So, how did I do?”

What is something most people don’t know about you?

Almost any Elvis Presley song can put me in a good mood!





The A-Team

Welcome to the acolytes installed Sunday Morning to serve at the 10:50am service! They have gone through training and are now commissioned to serve as worship leaders responsible for bringing in the light of Christ and then taking it out for discipleship in the world.

We applaud these young people dedicated to serving the church at an early stage of their lives.

Acolyte Schedule

- April 4 – Audrey Rambo
- April 11 – Connor/Carlee Berardi
- April 18 – Hayes Flatt
- April 25 – Trey Milliman



Kidz Worship

Children ages pre-k through 5th grade are invited to participate in Kidz Worship during the 10:50am worship

service. After the children’s moment in worship, the children may leave the sanctuary with Mrs. Diane for Bible stories, games, and craft activities. Children will return back to the sanctuary for communion or the last hymn.

Helper Schedule

- April 4 – Trumanell Maples
- April 11 – Sharon Walker
- April 18 – Sara Flatt
- April 25 - Patina Berardi
- May 2 – Alea Peña

CIA- Children In Action



Next month’s CIA mission will be to serve at the Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry on **Saturday, May 1, from 7:30- 9:30am** in the church parking lot. Children that are accompanying their parents to volunteer their

services as a family will have a special and supervised place just for them to serve called *The Inspiration Station*. This special station will have activities specifically designed for children and will give them an opportunity to serve.

If you would like to help the children learn how to share their heart in service either through helping to supervise, donation of items for inspiration or ideas of inspiration projects please contact Sara Flatt or Diane Howell, or email children@decaturmethodist.org.





Transformed for a New Purpose

Our AV Room is nearly empty. Volunteers gathered last Sunday to clean out the old to prepare for the new. This will soon be the home of our Online Streaming Studio. Watch this space take on a new life in the coming weeks. Imagine the lives that will be touched with a state of the art online presence sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors!

We have collected \$93K of our \$121 to fully fund our Sanctuary Streaming Project. Make a one-time gift or a multi-payment gift between now and August 2021 to help us reach our goal. Give via check, online (decaturnethodist.org/give) or text 'decaturnethodist' to 77977.

Work continues on the Front of House Booth and Streaming Studio on the balcony floor of the Sanctuary. Don't mind our construction tape- for your safety -as you join us for worship each week. Vendors and workers assure us there will be no disruption of our regular services, including Easter Sunday, as the project continues to take shape over the coming weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has made it possible for us to look into the future with hope that God will introduce us to new people who desire to know Jesus. If you would like to contribute to this project, please designate your gift to *A/V Streaming Project*. Every gift makes a difference!

DECATUR STUDENTS

6th-12th grade students

April 11- MAC Night

Sunday nights at 5:00pm at the MAC Building
"Creating a space for students to wonder, grow, serve, and become empowered to create a better world for the sake of Christ."

April 18- Mission Sunday

Each month our students will participate in a service project on our Mission Sunday. Look out for more information about this month's project on the Student Ministry's social media pages.

April 25- Six Flags Trip

Student Ministries will be going out to Six Flags on Sunday, April 25. The cost will be \$20. Please email youth@decaturnethodist.org to RSVP by April 18.

Sr. High on the Square

Sr. High students (9th-12th grade) meet every first and third Wednesday at 6:30pm at a local spot on the square. This month, Sr. High Nights will be April 7th and 21st.

Summer 2021 Mission Trip

Madisonville, Texas

June 6-12

Throughout the month of April, students will be selling Mission Trip Stocks to help raise funds for mission trip.

Find us on social media to learn more about what's going on in Student Ministry



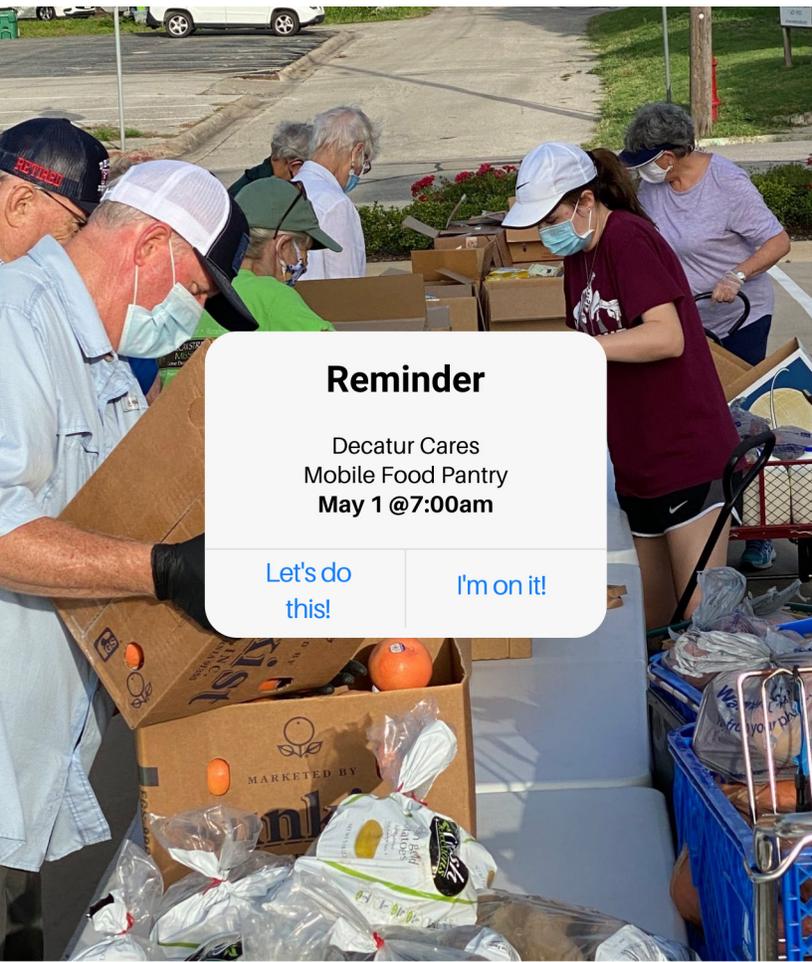
@FUMCDecaturStudents



@DecaturMethodistStudents

First United Methodist Church
104 S. Miller Street
P.O. Box 302
Decatur, TX 76234-0302

Presorted Standard Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 166
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Reminder

Decatur Cares
Mobile Food Pantry
May 1 @7:00am

Let's do
this!

I'm on it!

We want to feature your group or ministry!

Submit information and photos to
info@decaturmethodist.org
by April 15 to be in next
month's issue of The Voice.

**Youth and Children's
Summer Camp
Registration is Open!**

Register at BridgeportCamp.org

**Sr. High Camp - June 28-July 2
Jr. High Camp - July 5-9
Family Camp - July 17-19**