**Sunday School 9:30**

**Worship 10:30**

Worship Leader: Lisa Compton

**4th Sunday of Advent**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”* **(blue #212)**

**Announcements**

**Invocation & Prayer**

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* **(blue #191**

**Reading:** History of O Little Town of Bethlehem – Tracy Yeackley

*“The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy”* **(blue #202)**

**Advent Reading & Lighting 4th Candle:** Dan & Darcy Friedli &

 Grandkids

**Sharing & Prayer Time**

**Offertory:** Please tear off your “Response Sheet” and drop

 It in the offering basket.

**Children’s Story:** “The Night Before Jesus – Sheryl Keller

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Message:** Gene Miller

 “JOSEPH THE FAITHFUL”

*“Jesus, Name Above All Names” & “Emmanuel”*

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**What’s happening at Bellwood this week:**

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

 NO Youth Groups

Thursday, December 26 – A.A. & Alanon – 7:30

Join us Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m. for our Christmas Eve service, titled the “Signs of Christmas.”

Thank you for your generous giving to Mennonite Central committee in 2019. Your gifts help MCC continue work in 53 countries working on 648 projects and impacting countless people.

**Wise Leadership**

Proverbs 8:15 “By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just;

When laws are just it is because wisdom was used to create them. Without wisdom laws become self-motivating and corrupt. Our corrupted nature believes that “we” are better and more deserving than “they”. We believe that rules should be imposed to protect us, while simultaneously believe that we need not always be held to the same standard. This reality comes very close home where we hear ourselves say, “do as I say not as I do” or “don’t use me as an example”. We know what is right, but we don’t want the rules or discipline to always apply to us, only to everyone else. When you are parenting expect your children to follow same rules you have for yourself. Parent by example. One of the greatest characteristics of the American justice system is that they have as a symbol a blindfolded lady holding a scale measuring out justice. Our tradition teaches that no one is above the law and all including the leadership should be held to the same standard. No matter how large the family, institution, or government when this simple expectation that all will be subject to the same guidelines are eliminated for leadership, resentment will abound within. We all can accept when laws are suspended for a period of time, because of crises or maybe in a family because of a vacation, but we resent when the authority in charge delivering our justice treats the some differently than others. Wisdom recognizes that the standard you hold for others will be the same standard you will be held to at some future time.

**The Wisdom for today** – What goes around comes around

**Last Week**:Worship Attendance – 85, Budget - $5,323

**Birthday this week:** Jeremiah Miller (Wed.)

**Worship Leader, Music & Singers:**

December 29 - Worship Leader – Tim Troyer

 Music – Pam & Peg

 Singers – Joy Steckly, Josh & Kaleb Miller

 Offertory – Savannah Bontrager

January 5 – Worship Leader – Joy Steckly

 Piano – Peg Burkey

 Singers – Nick Glanzer, Katie & Val Spohn

 Children’s Moment – Shelly Troyer

“More light than we can learn, more wealth than we can treasure, more love than we can earn, more peace than we can measure, because one Child is born.”

**Remember in Prayer:**

* Jamie McCullough
* Doug & Shari Nelsen
* Gordon Scoville
* Lindsey Troyer Vosta
* Search Committee
* Maintaining faith in the family

**Bellwood Mennonite Church**

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Website: [www.bellwoodchurch.org](http://www.bellwoodchurch.org)

Interim Pastor: Gene Miller

Associate Pastor of Youth & Pastoral Care - Taric Leichty



**December 22, 2019**