



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
The new creation has come:
The old has gone,
The new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Last year, Southminster challenged you to consider your Vision for 2020.

So, we have to ask – *has it turned out as you expected so far?*

Sometimes, the world changes. We are surprised. We are challenged.

Southminster has risen to this year's challenges, and stayed faithful to the Lord. When public gatherings became unsafe and unlawful, we learned how to worship, meet and have fellowship online. Along the way, we learned how to reach more people, in their homes, both in Illinois and around the world. Now that some feel confident to meet in person, we continue to reach out to those participating from home, while striving to stay safe at church.

Sometimes, our plans are upset. We need to try new things. We must re-create ourselves.

Our youth had a stay-at-home mission trip. Deacons kept in touch with their flocks by telephone, and delivered donated face masks to the entire congregation. After we stopped meeting in person, member Bobbi Frey organized a 24/7 collection on her own porch for the Peoples Resource Center, and has made weekly deliveries of donated goods to their food pantry. We replaced our large Easter party for the community with a drive-through Easter egg distribution in July, and reached new families. When schools cancelled graduation events, we held a baccalaureate service that allowed extended families to participate from their homes.

~~Sometimes~~, All the time, God is with us.

Christ is with us throughout these challenges. The old has gone. The new is here!

As we move forward, we ask you to walk alongside us. Help Southminster meet the challenges to come. Join with us as we surmount future hurdles. Open your heart and mind to what comes next – it's going to be awesome!

At this time, we prayerfully invite you to participate in the financial future of Southminster by making a pledge for 2021, if you are able to do so. A pledge is a declaration of the amount you intend to donate to our church during the coming year. Based on all of the pledges received, Southminster's Session will approve a balanced budget early next year.

You may make a confidential pledge by returning the enclosed pledge card to Southminster (by mail or in person). You are also welcome to respond directly to Stewardship ministry chair Chris Kozich, by email (kintonck@gmail.com), or by telephone or text (630-673-4286).

We will be dedicating our pledges during worship on Sunday, October 18, 2020. Your pledge is most welcome earlier – there is no need to wait, if you are ready to respond sooner.

We are in this together, wherever we may be. A new day is dawning! Hallelujah!