

Under Construction

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11 – 13 and Romans 8:28

9/19/21

Have you drive on the PA Turnpike? It always seems to be under construction. I believe it is a highway of permanent construction. I think the road builders just moves to the next 100 mile marker and rip up the road. The highway is a place for orange barrels to die. The highway is a one lane with pull over zone rode. The highway is a construction zone!

Often it seems to me that the road builders are totally confused about the work that is being done. They seem lost!

But I just took a trip on the turnpike and with the construction finally completed, I now can see that the road builders did have a plan! And the results make traveling on that road much smoother! They had a plan!

Sometimes I have looked at things going on in my life and they seemed to be a total mess! Sometimes I have things in my life that seem to be under continue construction! I often feel like the PA Turnpike, I am under construction!

And if one part of my life is fixed, life moves on a short distance and the construction begins again! I am in a state of permanent construction. But this is life - a state of construction!

My life is full of orange barrels. My life has many orange cones in it. My life is sometimes reduced to one lane. It is a construction zone!

How about you? Sometimes do you look at things going on in your life and they seemed to be a total mess? Sometimes do you have things in your life that seem to be under continue construction? Do you often feel like the PA Turnpike? Are you under construction?

And if one part of your life is fixed, life moves on a short distance and the construction begins again! We are in a state of permanent construction. But this is life - a state of construction!

Our lives are full of orange barrels. Our lives have many orange cones in it. Our lives are sometimes reduced to one lane. It is a construction zone!

How about us as a church? Sometimes we look at things going on in our church life and they seemed to be a total mess! Sometimes we have things in our church life that seem to be under continue construction! We often feel like the PA Turnpike, we are under construction!

And if one part of our church life is fixed, church life moves on a short distance and the construction begins again! We are in a state of permanent construction. But this is church life - a state of construction!

Our church life is full of orange barrels. Our church life has many orange cones in it. Our church life is sometimes reduced to one lane. It is a construction zone!

Boy that is sad! But I know something that I hope you know - God has a plan for my life, your life, and our church life. Did you hear that? God has a plan for my life, your life, and our church life.

I often cannot imagine how I can fix the construction in my life, but God knows. You often will wonder how your jumbled life can be fixed, but God knows. We may often wonder how we can fix the mess we are in, but God knows.

All our jumbled pieces of permanent construction in my life, your life, and our church life can fit together because God knows how the pieces go together.

In 2019 I turned 60! I feel I have the advantage point of age and the passing of years has allowed me to look back and see clearly how God smoothed my life and helped me through the construction periods in my life. I can see times in my life when God fix the rough spots. I can see time in my life when God removed the orange barrels and gave me a smooth road to travel. I can see times in my life when God removed the orange cones of my life and it made my life a four lane highway. I am not in a state of permanent construction because God has a plan for me!

Can you look back on your life and find the same situations? Can you see clearly how God smoothed your life and helped you through the construction periods in your life? Can you see times in your life when God fix the rough spots? Can you see time in your life when God removed the orange barrels and gave you a smooth road to travel? Can you see times in your life when God removed the orange cones of your life and it made your life a four lane highway? You are not in a state of permanent construction because God has a plan for you!

Now for us as a church, we are in a state of construction now! We are coming out of a terrible world pandemic. We are coming out of a long period of isolation. We are coming back together to worship in a common space, our Chapel. We are a church in transformation. We are a work in progress. God has a plan for us!

As I look back on the past two years, I can see clearly how God smoothed our life and helped us through the construction periods in our life with the YouTube services we produced so that we could stay in touch with each other. I can see times in our life when God fix the rough spots by allowing us to use ZOOM meeting to stay connected as a Church Board. I can see time in our life when God removed the orange barrels and gave us a smooth road to travel with the use of individual communion kits. I can see times in our life when God removed the orange cones of our life and it made our life a four lane highway. We are in a state of permanent construction but God has a plan for us!

Let me conclude this message with these words. I believe we will be a church under construction - both spiritually and physically in the next few years. I believe that God has a plan for us - I hope you agree? And I believe that God's plan includes us becoming a more active church within our community and within our camping program here at Bethany Beach because with the closing of Merrimac Camp, our Region now only has this beautiful camping facility to support our youth and adults discovering more about Jesus Christ at the beach - I hope you agree?

As we turn the corner into our 23rd year of full time ministry in October as the Bethany Beach Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), let us look to the future with hope. We will be a church under construction and may seem at times that the construction is permanent. We may encounter many orange barrels and cones placed on our highway together, but I am sure of one thing - God has a plan for us!

Welcome to the construction zone!

Let us pray:

O Master Planner, we thank you that you know the plan for my life, our lives, and our church. Please help each one of us to fit into those plans so that each one of us can serve you. Please help our church fit into those plans so that we can continue to serve you. AMEN.