* make you weak-as-a-kitten or look like something-the-cat-dragged-in.
* Speaking of over-indulging, if you have a whale-of-a-time and get drunk-as-a-skunk, you’ll need a hair-of-the-dog-that-bit-you the next morning otherwise you will feel as awkward-as-a-cow-on-roller-skates.
* Watch out for summer squalls that make it rain-like-cats-and-dogs. (Be careful not to step in a poodle!)
* Are you the black-sheep-of-the-family? Do you hog-the-road, go around loaded-for-bear, acting as stubborn-as-a-mule, or raging like a bull-in-a-china-shop? Then perhaps you ought to change-horses-midstream and try to be as gentle-as-a-lamb.
* I hate to point out the elephant-in-the-room, bit I heard-it-straight-from-the-horse’s-mouth that many people skip church in the summertime. (Don’t worry, no one ratted-you-out!) So, if you feel-a-little-sheepish or look guilty like the cat-that-ate-the-canary, or nervous like a deer-caught-in-the-headlights, it’s okay. Church is open every Sunday, and we’re all about forgiveness.
* If you’re worried about being a dumb-bunny, just remember that it was curiosity-that-killed-the-cat.
* After summer vacation, many of us find ourselves poor-as-a-church-mouse and heading back to the rat-race to earn some money from the cash-cow.
* During the summer, we all horse-around a bit, but then, in two-shakes-of-a-lamb’s-tail, its late August and time to get-our-ducks-in-a-row for school.
* Now, if I’ve rubbed-anyone’s-fur-the-wrong-way, I do apologize; but let me cast-one-more-pearl-before-you-swine (Matt. 7:6)…one more…just hold-your-horses…
* If you’re feeling anxious about where this sermon is heading, you may have ants-in-your-pants!

Which brings me to today’s text. Proverbs 6:6 - *Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!* (NIV)

Benjamin Franklin quipped, “None preaches better than the ant; and she says nothing.” Although the ant does not speak in a language known to us, we can learn much from watching the ant at work.

“What can an ant teach me?” I hear you ask. You’d be surprised. Here are ten simple truths we can learn from ants.

**1. Ants have a purpose. Ants** have a clear long term objective which shapes everything they do. For example: one ant’s sole job description is to find food for the colony. That’s his purpose, and he puts all his time and energy into, compounding his chances of success. *Lesson #1: know your purpose and don’t be distracted.*

 **2. Ants work as a team.** Ants work together to achieve great things. They are team players, working for the common good. *Lesson* *#2: align yourself with others who can help you achieve your goals.*

**3. Ants take time to work and time to rest.** Ants work with the natural seasons: in summer, they gather their food and in winter they hibernate to conserve energy because of the lack of food. *Lesson #3: know when to work and know when to rest.*

**4. Ants think big. Because of their size, ants are easily** underestimated. But the colonies they build and the contribution to their society is great and extremely significant. *Lesson #4: think globally, but act locally.*

**5. Ants are patient.** Ants are orderly and patiently work with each other. Ants do not believe in the struggle to be first, like human beings do. *Lesson #5: be patient, wait your turn, take your time.*

**6. Ants prepare for the future.** Ants gather food in summer because they know that there will be a time when there will be no food to find in winter. They are constantly preparing for a season which is yet to come. *Lesson #6: Plan ahead.*

**7. Ants carry workloads they can handle.** Although small, ants can handle up to one hundred times their weight. Still, they know their limitations. All too often we say ‘yes’ to things that we can’t do and take on responsibilities that we struggle to fulfill. *Lesson #7: know your limits, set boundaries, and don’t overextend yourself.*

**8. Ants serve one another.** Living for yourself is a lonely existence. Serving people goes that one step further and asks ‘what can I do for you?’ *Lesson #8: purposefully live beyond yourself and contribute positively to others.*

**9. Ants don’t say very much**. Although ants do not “speak” with a language like ours, we can learn from them by observing their actions. Their actions speak louder than words. *Lesson #9: Let your deeds speak for you.*

**10. Ants are tenacious!** Ants are not easily dissuaded or sidetracked. Ants don’t quit when rain or bigger bugs or sticks block their path. Ants doggedly pursue their goal, overcoming or going around each obstacle. *Lesson #10: Don’t give up!*

Solomon, the wisest of all Israel’s kings, thought enough of the wise, little ant to write about her in his proverbs. (Continues to front…) His respect for the abilities of the ant echo from generation to generation. Cheers to the ant!

Prayer: Dear God, you made us to be part of your creation, to care for the welfare of all your creatures. Help us to learn from nature, especially from the ant, how to live and work and move and praise together. Amen.

Source: “7 Life Lessons You Can Learn from the Ant.” Diana Quartey. <https://dianaquartey.wordpress.com/2013/10/26/7-life-lessons-you-can-learn-from-an-ant/>

**Consider the Ant**

August 27, 2017

Federated Church

Worship in the park

*Go to the ant, you sluggard;*

*consider its ways and be wise!*

Proverbs 6:6, NIV

What you call the time between July 3rd and August 11th?

The dog days of summer.

The ancient Romans called the hottest, most humid days of summer *diēs caniculārēs* or “dog days." The name came about because they associated the hottest days of summer with the star Sirius, the “Dog Star," which is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog).

Stereotypically, the “dog days of summer” are a period marked by inactivity and laziness. Which makes sense, I guess. Who wants to work on their summer vacation? Or when it’s hot? It did make me