

Family Matters

June-July 2020
Volume 15, Issue 2

Ella Fitzgerald sang this beautiful spiritual in 1968 that I love to listen to. Here are a few of the words; (I hope you can hear her voice echoing in your ears.)

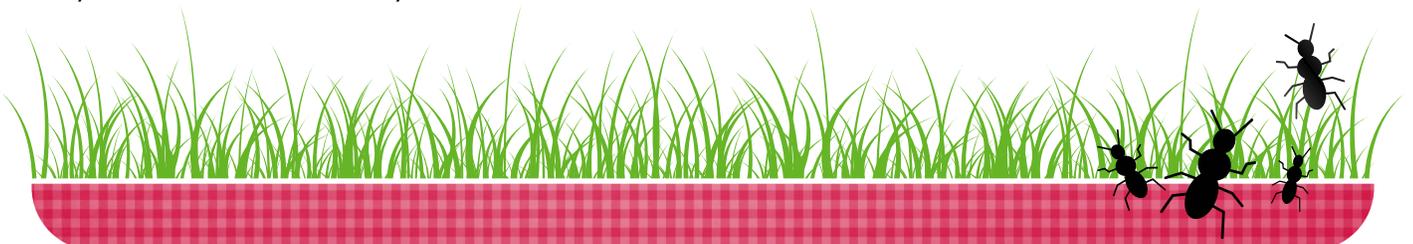
Summertime and the livin' is easy,
Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high.
Oh your daddy's rich and your ma is good lookin'
So hush little baby, don't you cry.
One of these mornings, you're goin' rise up singin'
Yes, you'll spread your wings, and you'll take to the sky.
Mmm, but 'til that morning, there is nothin' can harm you.
Yes, with Daddy and Mommy standin' by.

Oh, if life was really that easy! It IS summertime, but I don't think we regard our lives as easy—right? In fact, the world is just downright complicated these days. I wonder how you are doing these days? Not being able to see each other face to face with the ease of hugging, speaking and being close to each other is HARD. It is so easy to be fearful instead of really believing that “Daddy,” Our Heavenly Father, is standing close by watching over us, keeping us from harm, especially when there is so much potential harm surrounding us from every direction. Our Father wants us to be wise in our decisions. In fact, **Proverbs 22:3 says: “Prudent persons see danger and hide themselves, but the simple go on and suffer for it.”** In other words, we are not to intentionally place ourselves in harms way thinking we will be untouched when the clear warning is there. There are certainly many times throughout our lives that God calls us to take risks, but I believe that we must be very careful that we take those steps only when He directs us to do so. The Apostle Paul took so many risks in his missionary journeys to the Gentiles, and he suffered many hardships because of those risks, but God called him to go to those places. However, there was a time in his ministry when he was set to go into Asia, and God warned him not to do so, and directed him to go to another place (Acts 16: 6-10). That mission was to be for another Apostle in another time. Likewise, I encourage us as “family” to listen to those clear warnings.

Inside this issue, you will see that we have put some important **protocols** in place for phasing in our getting together again. Please take time to read them. We are calling it our **“Family Reunion,”** our phasing back in of getting together again. We have been entrusted with the sobering responsibility to establish a SAFE place where you can come and be confident that we have done our part in putting everything in place to create that space. These decisions have been made prayerfully, considering everyone who comes here—clients, volunteers, teachers, cooks, and staff.

We look forward to the day that these constraints will be lifted, and we can celebrate with a “big ole’ Family Reunion Party. But in the meantime, let’s patiently wait in confidence that time will come. We love you so much. Please stay in touch with us!!

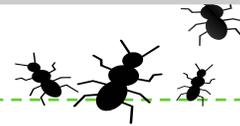
~Beth~





Reminder of Services we are continuing to provide:

- ◆ Food Bank Vouchers (can either be picked up or mailed to you).
 - ◆ Emergency Financial Assistance.
 - ◆ Bus Passes (when the bus is no longer free).
 - ◆ Gas Cards.
 - ◆ Freezer meals when available.
 - ◆ Fruits and Vegetables (when available).



I'm sure that you are noticing ants all over this newsletter. (Just think of ants and summer.) But ants have significant symbolism in the Bible. Proverbs 6:6. says, "The ant is an industrious creature. ... Ants teach us the value of hard work. Laziness does nothing but encourages us to procrastinate and remain in a state of lack and apathy. So let's take notice of what they have to say to us.

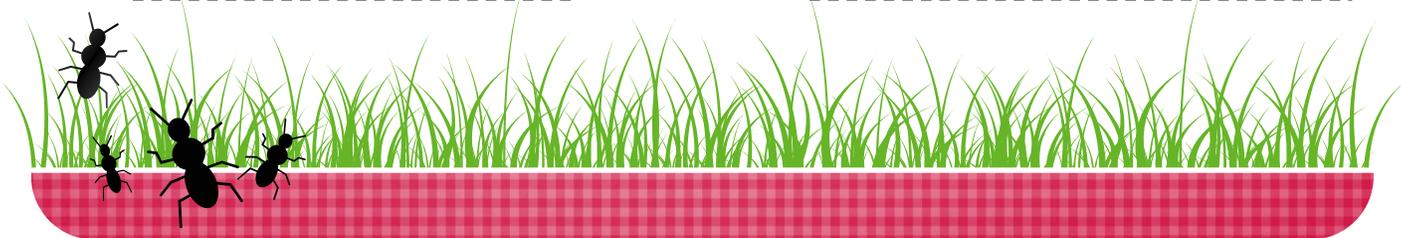


If you have not already done one of our client surveys, we want to hear from you. We can either do it on the phone or can mail one to you to mail back to us. We are here to serve you and want to know your opinion on various matters.

The Sonshine Line

We are so appreciative of **Abi, Steve, and Virginia's** contributions to our **Sonshine Line** especially during this time that we have not been able to gather! If you haven't ever listened to their devotionals call:

269-6027



Protocols for COL Family Reunion

We are excited to have be able to see you face to face! In order to keep everyone safe during this time, we have protocols that we must follow. Hopefully, we will be able to lift these soon, but we must insist that everyone follow these for the time being.

- Everyone must wear a mask in the office. We have masks we will provide for you.
- You will have your temperature taken before entering the building. Anyone with a temp of 100 or over will not be allowed to enter.
- We will have gloves for you if you feel more comfortable wearing them.
- If you are not feeling well or have been around someone who is sick, stay home!
- Please call to make an appointment before coming to the office so we can limit the number of people in the office at one time.
- We are not able to transport people in the van just yet. We are happy to provide you with bus passes or gas cards if needed.

We are also working toward having Bible Study at Channels once again. We are surveying clients to see how many people feel comfortable meeting in a small group at this time. **If you are interested in attending Bible Study, please give us a call and let us know your thoughts.** Our plan is to have groups of 4 people at a time for Bible Study. Depending on how many people are interested, we could hold those several times each week to give everyone an opportunity to attend.

While we realize that many of you many not feel comfortable getting together just yet, there is no shame in that! COVID19 has affected all of us and each of us must do what we feel comfortable with. There is no one size fits all!

Remember:



- ◆ Wash your hands often.

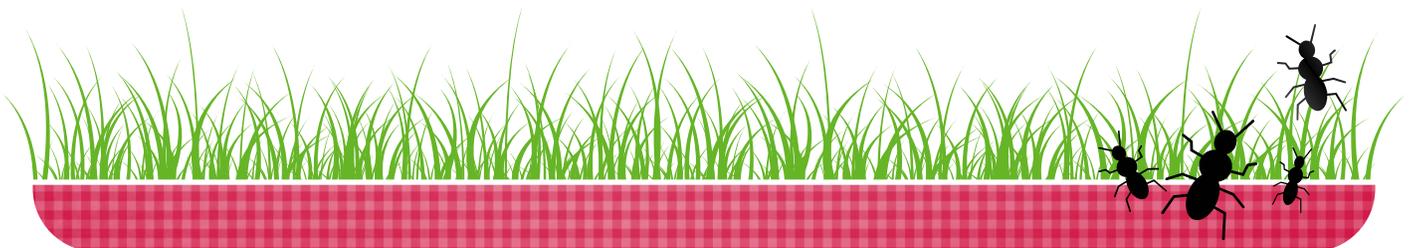


- ◆ Wear a mask when you are in public.

- ◆ Don't let your health and



guard down. Be responsible for guarding your safety. Stay alert.



Family Matters
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Susan's Corner

I am overwhelmed. We have been through so many stressful events during the past few months as a community and as a country. COVID-19 has kept us apart and kept us from doing the things we would normally do, like worshiping together and spending time together in person. The tornados in our area last month devastated homes, churches, and businesses. People were faced with nowhere to live and nowhere to go during a time when they were asked to stay at home. And now I am sad. George Floyd's death reminds us again that racism, whether blatant or subtle is prevalent. I can't understand what it is like to be treated differently just because of the color of your skin. I can't begin to understand what it must feel like to be George's family and friends who mourn him so deeply. But our Father does understand. I am so thankful for our family here that is Red, Yellow, Black, and White – **ALL** precious in His sight. I am thankful that no matter what happens to us, our Father is Sovereign. Our Father is in control. Our Father loves each and every one of His children. We have so much to learn from one another. May the Lord make our love increase and overflow for each other! I am so looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Susan

