

October is the most beautiful month of the year

Just like that I turn the calendar and October stares back at me. It is the most beautiful month possible, with leaves the color of gemstones, beginning to fall from trees to grace our sidewalks and yards. October often gets a bit confused, wondering whether or not to let the sun shine bright and warm or whisk in the northern winds with the first few flakes of ... dare I say it ... snow.

I cannot and will not ever tire of the beauty of October. Maybe because the beauty is so beautiful or maybe because it is only one month out of the year. I suppose it is a combination which makes me love it so. Emily Dickinson once wrote, "That it will never come again is what makes life so sweet."

October is derived from the Latin word, octo, meaning eight. When the Romans changed the calendar to 12 months, October took over the 10th position yet kept the name October.

What lovely events happen in October? Well, first on my list is Halloween. I will say this now ... and I will say it again ... I love the old-fashioned trick-or-treating so bring the kiddos my way! I think I am starting backward as I say trick-or-treating on Halloween night, of course. Saturday, Oct. 28, will be the Halloween celebration downtown from 2-5 p.m., sponsored by Angola

Main Street.

Costume judging will be at 4 p.m. If you have never participated, I seriously urge you to come downtown and watch this fun event. For a brief shining moment, it will seem like the 1950s. I love it every year.

Angola Parks and Recreation will host their Halloween fun on Thursday evening, Oct. 26, from 6-8 p.m., at Selman Timber Frame. It is always a great family night! Or, if you choose, you could come to Poe Night at Trine University at 7 bells in Wells Theatre. You will have a great time at either event!

Oct. 14 brings back the Fall Fest to the downtown. Another wonderful event sponsored by our Parks and Recreation will be the Firefly Tour on Saturday evening at the Community Center. This is a wonderful event performed by the Fort Wayne Ballet company and starts at 6 p.m. This has been canceled twice because of the weather, but this time it will be inside. I know I will take a front row seat, or there about!

Oct. 11 brings us books and more books as the Trine University Humanities and Communication Departments celebrate annual Book Night. This event is from 4-7 p.m., in the beautiful T. Furth Center. As an added bonus, you will be able to walk into the auditorium and take a seat to watch one of our rehearsals for "Arsenic and Old Lace." I am pretty excited about sharing this with you. Just come on it and have a seat.

Rehearsals are really great fun!

I am sure I have missed many events. Don't forget to drive or walk through our beautiful state park. I took a drive through on Saturday and the leaves are beginning to turn already.

One last event before we move on to stars and planets! Wednesday, tomorrow, is National Walk and Roll to school day. This is the 27th year for this event, and I love it so much. We are so fortunate to have such great paths to get to the schools, and we have crossing guards so your children are safe. I love our crossing guards. My neighbor, Cheri Cope, just became one and I see her car crawl down the street early on school mornings as she takes up her post. How lucky we are to have such a safe town that protects our children. My advice? Go ahead and walk with your children all the while keeping that phone of yours in your back pocket!

As for the night sky, the full Hunter's Moon will grace our skies on October 28. The opal is the birthstone for October and the flower for October is the marigold. Go ahead and print this column to save all the dates. I know you can't get to everything!

Just make sure you enjoy this beautiful month. As T.C. Steele said every morning, "I take off my hat to the beauty of the world." I shall do the same.

Welcome, October. We have been waiting for you.

Autumn

by Emily Dickinson
*The morns are meeker than they were,
 The nuts are getting brown;
 The berry's cheek is plumper,
 The rose is out of town.*

LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR lives in Angola at the White Picket Gardens where you can find her gardening or writing late into the night under the light of her frayed scarlet lamp. She can be contacted at locketoftime@aol.com.



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The News Sun
 102 N. Main St.
 P.O. Box 39
 Kendallville, IN 46755

The Star
 118 W. 9th St.
 Auburn, IN 46706
 Email: jjones@kpcmedia.com

The Herald Republican
 107 N. Martha St.
 Angola, IN 46703
 Email: mmarturello@kpcmedia.com

Letter to the Editor

Christian nationalism is the new boogiemán of the left

To the Editor:
 At a recent ENSC school board meeting, a community member claimed that grooming of children is not occurring within public education. Instead, he maintains grooming is happening in religion.

It is an undeniable fact that the Biden administration, Democrat leadership and woke allies are promoting indoctrination of children into gender ideology nationwide despite strong parental opposition. These allies include administrators, teachers, teacher unions, state and federal departments of education and other activists.

Public schools facilitate gender transition of students, often without parental knowledge and consent.

Additionally, public schools across the nation have implemented comprehensive sexual education with a particular emphasis upon the LGBT community and explicit details of their sexual practices.

Thus, grooming is an apt label to describe the activities of public schools engaged in this indoctrination.

In contrast, parents choose to instruct their children into the tenets of their faith. Parental or pastoral instruction of their children is not grooming.

He targeted Christian community members in attendance, indicating that they want a theocracy.

Subsequent remarks were reminiscent of Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the vile American Atheist founder who played a

significant role in the secularization of public education.

Christian nationalism is the new boogiemán of the left.

I suspect he believes the myth of neutrality in the public forum and thinks Christians should not express their worldview at school board meetings.

The reality is that there is no worldview neutrality. Biblical Christians are not neutral. Neither are Cultural Marxists and atheists.

He is not neutral either.

A well-informed biblical Christian has a robust worldview providing coherent answers to life's major questions.

What is man and his purpose? How should the child be educated for this purpose?

The unbeliever has no coherent answers to these essential questions.

Regarding the Christian desire for a theocracy, there are differing views about Christ's reign amongst those who have studied Christian doctrine.

A minority believe governments will be substantially subjugated to Christ's control prior to his return. A majority believe governments will be influenced by Christianity to a much lesser degree but will ultimately experience a cataclysmic failure prior to Christ's bodily return.

Both groups have something in common. They welcome a theocracy where Christ reigns and God's moral law is the standard of behavior. God's law is not viewed as oppressive by Christians, but rather, as a key component of a harmonious, well-ordered society.

I don't think many Christians believe

a theocracy will materialize in the current cultural environment. A revival with spiritual rebirth of a substantial segment of society would need to occur. Men with stony hearts need hearts of flesh to love God's laws.

Regarding public schools, there is wide consensus amongst those in my circle that the public school system is beyond repair.

Some opt to homeschool their children. Homeschool cooperatives are aiding parents with this challenge.

I understand many within other faith communities like the Amish and Muslims see the handwriting on the wall and are making their own preparations.

I would like to express my admiration and appreciation to the fifty-plus percent of area Indiana public school teachers who reject union membership. Thanks for not contributing your hard-earned dollars to teacher unions that fund Democrat campaigns and other leftist organizations.

For a good exposé of gender ideology, I recommend Dr. Miriam Grossman's book *Lost in Trans Nation: A Child Psychiatrist's Guide Out of the Madness*. She aptly compares so-called gender affirmation procedures to the horrors of lobotomies perpetrated upon the mentally ill of previous generations.

Several video interviews with Dr. Grossman covering the contents of this book are available on Youtube.

Comments? Email me (christiannews-junkie@mediacombb.net).

Soli Deo Gloria.

Robert Sparkman
 Rome City

What Others Say

U.S. feeding children in 2023

The children's names rarely make the news. They are the millions of kids in Somalia, Libya, Mali, Haiti, Afghanistan, Yemen and other poor nations who don't have enough to eat. They were born into families that make less than \$2.15 per person a day. Their plight has worsened as food prices around the world have soared because of global inflation, natural disasters and war, especially Russia's unjust invasion of Ukraine, in which Russian President Vladimir Putin has attempted to block one of the world's critical grain supplies from reaching many of the neediest nations.

The United States last year rallied other countries and wealthy families to ensure 160 million of the world's neediest had enough to eat. The job needs doing again.

What sets the United States apart as a global leader is more than military might; it's how this nation steps up in moments of global crisis, including times of hunger and famine. As Secretary of State Antony Blinken said this month, "The United States is the largest donor in the world to the U.N. World Food Program. We provide about 50 percent of its annual budget. Russia and China? Less than 1 percent each."

This year brings another moment of

crisis. Food prices remain high, Russia continues to thwart Ukrainian grain shipments, and a spate of earthquakes and severe floods have caused more nations than usual to request emergency assistance. Roughly 345 million people are in dire need of food aid, according to the U.N. World Food Program. That is virtually the same as the record set last year, yet funding has been slashed. There is no other way to say it: Millions will go hungry if the U.N. World Food Program does not get more funding. Its total budget for 2023 is \$5 billion, the lowest since 2015 and less than half of the \$14 billion the agency had last year as donors have become fatigued.

Some question why the United States sends money overseas to feed the world's poorest when there are many needs at home. This is a false choice. This nation can help its own people and play a leading role in preventing starvation around the world. Last year, the United States spent about \$119 billion on the domestic food stamp program and gave about \$7 billion to the U.N. World Food Program. This year, the United States has given the program just \$2.1 billion, its smallest contribution in years.

There are reasons beyond a moral imperative to sustain high levels of foreign food aid. A Presidential

Commission on World Hunger was established in 1978. Then-first lady Rosalynn Carter took notes on the "significant reasons" eliminating global hunger was a top priority for the United States. Her first two bullet points were "moral obligation" and "national security." These remain just as true today. When people do not have enough to eat, they often flee to other nations or join extremist groups who lure them with promises of food and change.

Foreign food aid, particularly on an emergency basis, need not be a permanent international welfare program. In 1978, when that commission began, nearly half the world's population lived in extreme poverty. Today about 10 percent live in extreme poverty. In addition to giving emergency food aid, the United States has also been increasing its investments in helping low-income nations become self-sufficient with improved farming techniques through a program called Feed the Future.

Congress faces many needs, but an extra \$3 billion for global food aid would make a powerful global statement, galvanize more giving and show the world why U.S. leadership is indispensable.

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