

The Danville News
Robert John Andrews
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"Poop"
Word Count: 750

We can denounce all that we believe is wrong with Trump's administration. That's easy. Their failed and disgraceful policies are self-evident. Even The Wall Street Journal is fed up. What's difficult today is figuring out how to stop Trump from disgracing America. We can and must do our best to ensure that the Democrats reclaim control of Congress, but by then our government and our worldwide leadership will be more than tarnished, it'll be flushed down the toilet along with the Constitution. All 425 seats in the House are up for grabs, along with 33 seats in the Senate. Perhaps Canada should become part of the United States. If each of their ten provinces and three territories become states, we'd handily kick Republicans out of power. Imagine 26 more sensible senators.

What can we do until election day, November 3, 2026?

Show courage, friends. Which can rarely be done in isolation. Letting ourselves become isolated from each other keeps us weak. As Aesop taught, individual sticks easily are snapped. Bound together, they're tough. Unite or die. The resistance and the rescue of America cannot wait for the Democratic party leadership to get their act together. The rescue and resistance must continue to rise up locally, a groundswell of opposition, wave after wave of demanding explanations and justifications. Silence and acquiescence only encourages them. Ask Bonhoeffer's friend and colleague Martin Niemöller what he thought of his sheepish acceptance of the Nazi regime. Only after getting dragged into a concentration camp did he regret his lack of preaching against their evil.

Be willing to be attacked for your courage. Refuse to cower in the face of the hostility and retribution of the "Trump-servants." Don't give in. Fight them "on the beaches, on the landing grounds, in the fields and in the streets, fight in the hills; never surrender."

Fight them in the courts, in social media, by letters to the editors, at town meetings. Fight them with facts and truth. Every time Trump and his lemmings lie and mislead, we must counter with truth and facts. Fight them by highlighting the harmful consequences of their actions. Fight them with sane solutions. Never let Congressman Meuser or Senators McCormick and Fetterman off the hook.

Speaking of letting them off the hook, we will be called upon to offset the obscene suffering Trump's regime is causing by ripping away the social safety net. Our compassion, however, cannot ultimately replace it. It is the job of government to protect the people who are most vulnerable.

If civil disobedience is required, so be it. I've read my Thoreau. I also remember reading this incendiary call to arms: "That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and institute new government, laying its foundation of such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall see most likely to effect their safety and happiness." Where do these rebellious words come from? Fourth paragraph, the Declaration of Independence.

Avoid becoming hateful. Mockery is fine and oft deserved. Be playful and optimistic. It'll drive them nuts. Never become mean-spirited. When you become like them, you only give them excuse to be crueler and contemptuous.

Use the power of the dollar to hurt their policies. Boycott corporations, boycott El Salvador, that play footsie with Trump's regime. Boycott those businesses that run commercials on news media that really aren't news media but Trump propagandists.

Last, heed Tug McGraw's baseball motto: "Ya' gotta' believe." My faith bears witness that although the road may be rocky, innocents hurt, although it may not seem as if there's any hope, evil never endures. Such is the testimony of sacred history. Folly, faithlessness, fear, pride, power -- they breed their own ruin. They cannot stand.

Rabbi and family therapist Edwin Friedman wrote a clever book, called "Friedman's Fables." I've been dabbling in a few of mine own recently and intend to continue writing similar fables to whimsically point out our human foibles as a means of promoting healthy relationships. One of my favorite Friedman's fables, each of which can inspire a medley of insights, describes what happens when the fish tank's scavenger fish stops eating and cleaning up all the poop in the fish tank. The guppies die first. All the fish are affected for the worse.

We pastors are professional poop cleaner-uppers. We know too well if the poop isn't cleaned up, our fish tank is doomed.