

The Danville News
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"Pragmatism"
Word Count: 750

Let's clear away the clutter. Contrary to TV advertisements stoking fears about handouts to immigrants while boasting how 'we earn our paychecks', illegal immigrants do not, I repeat, do not receive benefits from social security, free housing, free Medicare. Benefits require a social security number. Subsidized housing requires legal status. There are legal immigrants who receive some benefits, given that they earned validated status, bless them. They also pay taxes. We should be proud of America meeting those dire situations where some desperate souls are eligible for emergency care and some women and children qualify for food assistance. Emergency food and shelter has been funded by federal dollars distributed to qualified relief agencies. Amnesty for illegal immigrants? Show me where Harris promised that.

How often does Kamala have to say that due to pragmatic reality she won't ban fracking? Not that she has the authority. Besides, it's already going the way of coal.

Dear me, Illegal aliens are registering to vote. No, they aren't. Only US citizens can vote. What did the political advertisement insinuate about felons receiving stimulus checks? Yes, that happened in order to help the children and spouses of those who were incarcerated, although in many cases the stimulus checks were seized by the court to pay restitution to those against whom the crimes were committed. Just the facts, jack.

We should also mention that the curse of fentanyl isn't smuggled across the border by illegals as much as it comes through legal points of entry. We might question what drug appetite are they feeding? Maybe remedying the appetite is the better solution, which seems to be happening with a 10.6% decline in overdosed deaths. Pogo said: "We have met the enemy and they are us."

And crime? "U.S.-born citizens are over 2 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes, 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes, and over 4 times more likely to be arrested for property crimes," credible sources report. Where is this nonsense coming from? It's from the village crank who's campaigning for president and those MAGA Republicans who stir up fear, hostility, division. His America is a demolition derby. Democrats are securing economic progress and stability. Trump now blames Democrats for political violence. That's rich coming from him. His fans shout: 'They target him with witch hunts!' You do realize, it's his own fault. Eat crow, not cats.

I cannot believe Americans really wish to be aligned with his lies, his racism, his hatred, his anti-Americanism. I keep praying for him to be decent enough to renounce cheating, violence, bomb threats, cruelty, deceptive ads. Please, be man enough to renounce voter intimidation, deportations. Do you followers really want to embrace these malign machinations? MAGA husbands, guess who your wives might secretly vote for.

We require candidates wise enough to reject imbalanced ideology. We want purveyors of the factual possible. We're fed up and long for good news, hope.. Then Sarah Huckabee Sanders struts in front of this king narcissist with his superiority complex, suggesting Kamala would be more humble if she

weren't merely a step-mother. Since you cannot pronounce her name properly, have the self-respect to refer to her as Vice-president Harris.

Our expectations, assumptions, and biases become tyrannical idols of our own making. They undermine our freedom and enjoyment of life. And when life doesn't give us what we expect, we blame others rather than ourselves. It's his fault, her fault! It's their fault (fill in the blank who they are – Democrats, Rinos, Haitians)! Then we find equally angry friends to reinforce the toxic cycle rather than wick the poison from the wound. Rather than rise above it with loving pragmatism, we infuse ourselves with toxins. These falsehoods sour us, like spoiled wine.

As an evangelical Christian, I find everything about Trumpism contrary to the gospel. At a funeral last Sunday, I smiled when the husband quoted his deceased wife's humor. "Dying to the self is killing me." We affirm the majesty of truth.

When I first entered the professional ministry, I held incredibly brilliant positions. I was motivated by idealism. Then I became a pastor. It was so much easier sitting on the outside espousing opinions than sitting in the chair where I had to deal with parishioners I loved, loving them despite me, despite them. With maturity, idealism met pragmatism. It is easy being sanctimonious. Harder is achieving possible solutions. It doesn't require sacrificing your innate core values to realize what works and what doesn't.