

## **Our Night Sky for October 14th, 2024**

### **Happy Thanksgiving**

Fall harvest has been timed by the moon's phases during September and October for centuries. On October 17th we will see a super full Moon. It will rise at approximately 6:45 pm and be visible until after sunrise the next morning. Remember a super moon is simply a little larger. The moon's orbit is nearly circular, but it varies by about 14% making it about 25% brighter. This is called Perigee when the moon is closest. It is called Apogee when the moon is furthest from earth.

It is usually considered unfortunate when a bright moon washes out dimmer planets and stars. There will be good opportunities in the next couple of weeks as the moon passes through a bright full moon until by November 1st it starts all over as a new moon. Meanwhile the surface of the moon being relatively close to us is very well mapped. There are plenty of maps online that you can use to find valleys and mountain ranges quite easily on the moon. A small telescope or binoculars mounted on a tripod is enough to give you access to exploring scores of interesting sights on our nearest neighbor. Since the moon is tidally locked to the earth and always shows us the same face, you have the opportunity to watch the same scenes several times as the angle of the sun changes above them. A thousand meter cliff may not look like much when the sun is directly above it but a week later when the sun is illuminating it from an angle, another beautiful sight in Our Night Sky.