

*Thoughts and Smiles – October 9, 2023*



*Thought-provoking elegance, grace and beauty are the hallmarks of a James Christensen work of art, and Ten Lepers is a masterclass in story-telling design. James' work often focused on taking a moment to pause and reflect on the myriad of miracles that occur around us daily. Here he happens to use one of Christ's more recognized miracles to make the same point.*

*Everything in the painting leads us to the single leper at the moment he truly grasps what has occurred. The background is not monochromatic but progresses from light to dark - left to right - in the same way we in the western world are taught to read, and therefore, observe. The clothing on the mass of nine lepers serves multiple purposes. Their tattered wrappings suggest what was, until this moment, their illness. Their euphoric chaos not only contradicts the serenity of the lone leper but also contains numerous directionals driving your eye to the right.*

*Then, the artist slams on the brakes.*

*There is no movement in the tenth leper. He is lighter than the others against the darker background. His clothes hang vertically and static. This peace is easier on our eyes than chaos. Our eye rests there. His hands and face are lightest of all. Tassels on his turban and the other lepers point to his hands. His fingers on his hands are spread wide in discovery; his eyes glance off the canvas towards the source of the miracle that has occurred.*

*The artist's message is clear - Take a moment from our fast-paced world to reflect and show gratitude for all you have to be thankful for.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbAt1XTPf58&authuser=0>



***I'm SO psyched that it's Thanksgiving!  
I can't wait to eat a HUGE plate full of turkey,  
stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy. And I'm all  
about the pies! Pecan, pumpkin, apple, I love 'em all  
and can't get enough!***

***But I'm most excited about reading my gratitude  
list.***

***My mom makes us write them every year, and I  
usually write the same old stuff. But this year, I  
decided to come up with some different weird  
things to make it a lot more fun and interesting.***

***Here's what I came up with...***

***I'm grateful for:***

- 1. My big toes (because it would be awfully hard to walk without them!)***
- 2. Spoons (because a fork + soup = burning lips and chin!)***
- 3. Toilet paper (because regular paper would be uncomfortable and wouldn't fit on the toilet paper holder thingie!)***
- 4. Bugs (because my dad wouldn't have a job without them, and I'd never have met Brandon, Chloe, Zoey, and all my other friends!)***
- 5. Steve Jobs' brain (because if he didn't have that, he wouldn't have made Apple stuff, like iPhones, iPods, and iPads!)***
- 6. Pepperoni (because without it, my pizza would be naked...and nowhere near as tasty!)***
- 7. Miss Penelope (because without that wacky little hand puppet, Brianna would want to play with ME 24/7!)***
- 8. Janitors (because without them, there'd be no janitor's closet for Chloe, Zoey, and me to meet in, and oh, what a sad world that would be!)***
- 9. Red stop lights (because without them, I'd be at school even earlier, and I'm already there long enough!)***
- 10. Tuition bills – school fees (because if it weren't for mine, I wouldn't have formed my band and entered the talent show...and that was so much fun!)***
- 11. Ice (because without it, there wouldn't have been an ice-skating competition, and we wouldn't have saved the animal shelter!)***
- 12. Fur (because without it, all the animals at Fuzzy Friends would look a lot creepier and a lot less cute!)***
- 13. Oatmeal, sour cream, and split pea soup (because my fake vomit would look OBVIOUSLY fake without them!)***
- 14. The letter "N" (because without it, my name would be "ikki," and "Nikki" has a much nicer ring to it!)***



15. Coffee (because my mom says she'd be a monster in the morning without it, and I DEFINITELY don't want to see that!)

16. All the boys who have dumped Taylor Swift (because without them, she wouldn't write such awesome songs!)

17. My taste buds (because without them, I'd have no idea just how amazing so many things taste!)

18. Scissors (because without them, I'd look like Rapunzel...and it would be REALLY hard to walk!)

19. The fact that baby teeth fall out (because if they didn't, I'd have WAY too many teeth in my mouth, and that would look totally freaky!)

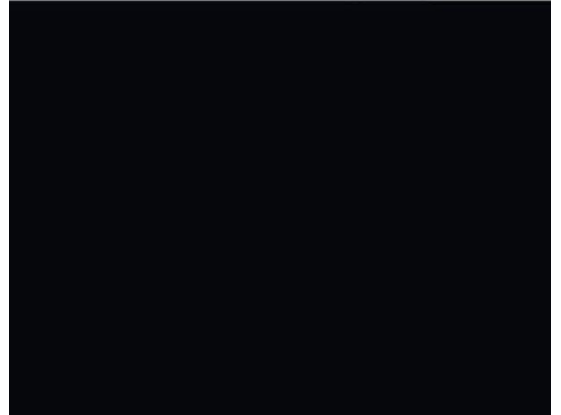
20. All of your parents (because without them, you guys wouldn't be here, and you're all totally awesome!)

That's it! What do you think? And what are YOU thankful for this year?





That Face you make when you didn't Pay the Electric Bill



"Please don't pray for healing. If it works, your insurance won't know who to reimburse and it messes up our accounting system."

**Have a terrific week!**

**Blessings to you all!**



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Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website. <https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>

SBUC: <https://www.youtube.com/live/Lsm747Oeb4I?si=dp2mCorbDDrYT31E>

St. Andrew's UC: [https://www.youtube.com/live/SKkZLfH\\_RcY?si=fW7Kz84uHNJT58Nl](https://www.youtube.com/live/SKkZLfH_RcY?si=fW7Kz84uHNJT58Nl)

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 10** - Thanksgiving will be behind us, so that means **IT'S TIME FOR MUSICIANS TO START PLAYING CHRISTMAS MUSIC!** Starting October 10, Gord Walden is inviting everyone to learn the ukulele while playing the tunes you love. There's not much needed:

- Tuesday mornings free - 9 am for those that “know nothing” and 9:30 if you know the basics. Plan to be on the road home by 10:30.
- Transportation to Sauble United Church to meet in the Gathering Room.
- A ukulele - any condition, borrowed from a friend, from the closet, or recently purchased. (The public library and Gord have a limited number of loaners).
- Optional - Bring a Friend
- Optional - Bring another Friend (or spouse!)

This is not a long-term commitment! We will only play until Christmas unless the demand is high to continue. If you can't source an instrument for this week, **come and sing**. Guitar/auto-harp/accordion players are welcome, but Gord won't be able to give new learners the help they may require. Contact Gord with your questions so we can shorten the start-up time: 519-200-2881 or [gwalden@live.ca](mailto:gwalden@live.ca)



And finally, from the folks at Affirm..



Everyone has a gender identity—a feeling or sense of being male, female or somewhere in between. Sometimes, people’s gender identity matches their bodies, and sometimes it does not. When you share your gender identity with the world through clothing, makeup, how you talk, act, and more, this is called “gender expression.” A person’s gender

identity and gender expression can be different.

<https://youtu.be/i83VQlaDIQw?si=D3Jhhtlos3utC4cF>

