



Kintsugi - Repairing the Broken

By Christina Kaya

The art of "Kintsugi". When something or someone is broken, it can be repaired and restored with gold to make it even more beautiful than before.

There is beauty in the broken.

Christina Kaya shared an interesting message with Grace United Church congregation and she agreed to allow it to be shared in our Fall newsletter. (The Ed.)



Christina Kaya

This is a kintsugi bowl.

After this bowl was broken, it lay in seven different pieces.

Seven blue pieces of broken pottery. A useless bowl.

You'll notice it wasn't pieced together with scotch tape or Elmer's glue or mud.

It was put back together with lacquer mixed with GOLD.

The result is this beautiful piece of art.

This bowl is even more beautiful and more valuable than it was BEFORE it was broken.

As we go through life, things are bound to break along the way.

We all experience tragedy ... some more than others.

The world is full of people with
Broken HEARTS,
broken SPIRITS,
broken RELATIONSHIPS ...

In fact, it seems right now, the world is broken.
Broken by divisions between people.
Broken by the quest for unbridled power
Broken by GREED

*God doesn't throw away those who are broken.
God redeems them. God repairs them with gold.*

In Corinthians 12: 9 – 10

"My grace is sufficient for you,
For my power is made perfect in weakness."

The gold to repair our spirits and indeed the world lies in the belief that there is a higher power. We're not meant to live as reptiles in the swamp, but as birds in the sky. Belief that our presence on earth is connected to a higher power with a moral grounding.

This is the gold that will heal our hearts, our spirits, our world.

Don't you think, we live in a culture that rejects broken things too easily. Something breaks, so we throw it away and buy a new one.

But what if we rejected everybody who was broken?

*God doesn't throw away those who are broken.
God redeems them. God repairs them with gold.*

Think about the cracks and fractures in the lives of the men and women throughout the Bible.

Jacob was a schemer.

Abraham was a liar.

Martha worried about everything and was prone to criticize.

Samson was a womanizer.

David was an adulterer and murderer.

Cain killed his brother Abel

Noah got drunk.

But in the Bible, none of these things defined these people.



The Bible doesn't omit their weaknesses and failures when it describes their victories. Their flaws were part of their whole story.

Just like the art of kintsugi, the broken pieces weren't something to be thrown out.

God doesn't throw away those who are broken.

God redeems them. God restores them with gold.

You know, they say confession is good for the soul.

But it's really TERRIBLE for the reputation.

We all generally work hard at putting on our "best front" for people to see.

We can feel ashamed of our flaws, our mistakes, our failures,

But God is using EVERYTHING in our lives.

Including our brokenness.

Our pain.

Our fractured relationships

And think about this ...

In our flaws, we may just bring gold to the world.

What is the gold that can fill the cracks in our lives?

Strength, gratitude, realization that life is precious ... are some of the forms of gold that restores us when we are broken.

When struck by tragedy we often cope better than we ever expected. Have you ever gone through such a difficult patch in your life, that you wonder "How am I ever going to get through this?" And then you do. You discover a strength that you never knew you had.

Let's face it, at this point, most people are younger than me. You have not yet experienced all the things that will challenge you and try to break you. Trust me, m'lufs, unfortunately, that will come. The most important lesson for young people is "don't give up". Right now, you might not know it, but you will discover a strength you never knew you had. That is your gold.

God never discounts the broken pieces of our lives.

God doesn't throw away those who are broken.

God redeems them. God restores them with gold.

What is the GOLD that will put our world back together?

We gather each Sunday in this beautiful Grace United Church where healing may be found.

A moral compass is the gold that the world needs right now. It will lead us to a better world.

Consider the Kintsugi bowl. More beautiful and valuable now than before it was broken!

Talent and love in every pie we make!

By Elaine Davidson



Grace United's talented group of pie making volunteers have started making pies again after having taken a well deserved break over the summer months. We had lots of pies in our freezers ... or so we thought!

Unfortunately, it was discovered there had been a power failure to the four pie freezers – a power failure long enough for the pies to remain cold, but not frozen. What to do? We had an instant pie sale and within two hours from the discovery, all pies were sold and folks had pies to take home and bake that same day.

As a result, our efficient maintenance committee moved the freezers to separate outlets in the church hall and our happy pie makers will have new pies for sale for Thanksgiving on October 12.

Our merry band of pie volunteers meet to make pies on the First and Third Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in joining us contact Elaine Davidson at 613-382-3772.

Pies for Sale

Apple, Blueberry, Bumbleberry, Cherry, Peach, Strawberry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Rhubarb = \$18.00 each

Raspberry = \$20

Sometimes we have Raisin or Mincemeat = \$20 each

All pies are frozen, ready to bake.

Maintaining our Church Property Never Ends

By Brian Brooks

The maintenance committee continues with its monthly inspection of the Church's emergency lighting and alarm systems.

The monthly meeting date has been changed to the first Tuesday of the month from the first Thursday. This was due to conflict with a group that rents the Hall on Thursdays. The pie ladies may have to put up with us, should our days conflict.

The problem with the light in the washroom has been fixed. The switch was found to be defective and replaced.

We are working on replacement of an emergency light in the front part of the sanctuary.

The drinking fountain between the washrooms on the lower hall was not draining and a small leak was detected. The drainpipes were removed and reinstalled after cleaning. The drain is now working fine, and no leak is evident. The volume of the spout increased. Now you don't need to bend over quite so far to get a drink.

Our next major project is to make changes to the piping that takes discharge water from the sump pump in the Hall's tables and chairs storage room. In past winters it has been noticed that water from the discharge, makes its way to the sidewalk between the Church property and the Bank of Montreal parking lot. The water can at times freeze, making for a very slippery sidewalk. We hope to have this work completed shortly.

Display Case Idea – Remembrance Day

Dianna Grier and friends create beautiful displays in the case in the Sanctuary.

This November, Dianna would like to create a meaningful display to honour the members, past and present who have served our Country.



Do you have a photo or other memorabilia of a family member that served? Would you like to share that item with Dianna?

Please bring your item to the Church office or to Sunday morning service by October 26th. Dianna is looking for Photos but would be glad to have whatever you would like to share.

Make sure that your contact information is on the item so that it will get back to you.

Come join us at Grace United Church as we move forward

By Colleen Harding, Chair of Session

"The Board of Elders, or Session, is responsible for the spiritual leadership of the congregation, including worship, education, pastoral care, and outreach. The ministry personnel of a congregation are members of the Session."

The United Church Manual – Pages 140-190

Reporting to the Session is a sub-committee, the "Fill The Pulpit Committee", consisting of Tammy Fergusson and Colleen Harding; their responsibility is to engage ministers to conduct worship on a weekly basis.



The following is a schedule of pulpit supply for the remainder of 2025:

Sept. 7 Paul Whitely

Sept. 14 Elaine Farley

Sept. 21 Charlotte Hoy

Sept. 28 Tammy Fergusson

Oct. 5 Paul Whitely

Oct. 12 Colleen Harding / Julie Price – windows

Oct. 19 Christina Kaya (with St. Andrews) (also World Food Sunday - luncheon proposed)

Oct. 26 Donna Norman

Nov. 2 Tammy Fergusson

Nov. 9 Erin Burns

Nov. 16 Paul Whitely

Nov. 23 Paul Whitely

Nov. 30 Tammy Fergusson (1st Sunday Advent)

Dec. 7 Erin Burns (Communion)

Dec. 14 Erin Burns

Dec. 21 Donna Norman

Dec. 24 Erin Burns (Christmas Eve)

Dec. 28 Tammy Fergusson (Baby Shower)

On Sunday, October 12th, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with a special emphasis on the glorious stained-glass windows in our building. Activities will include a scavenger hunt to discover elements of the windows as well as a presentation about the history of their donation, design and installation.



As luck would have it, neither St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church nor Grace United were able to engage pulpit supply for August 24, so we decided to have a joint service in St.



Andrew's sanctuary. The theme was "Water as an Element of Christian Faith", and three presentations were made, by Colleen Harding, Robyn Ableson and Ardie Archer. Robyn and Paul played organ/piano duets for Prelude and Postlude, and an anthem "Wade in the Water" was presented by a choir made jointly of Grace and St. Andrew's members. **We invited St. Andrew's to join us for a service on October 19th,** in which Christina Kaya will present the message, and our brothers and sisters next door gracious voted to worship with us. Participants from both congregations, including their LLWL Emilia Gardiner, will be taking part. The service will be followed by fellowship and refreshments in the downstairs hall. It is our hope that these joint services will happen on a continuing basis.

As Session's responsibilities include worship as well as pastoral care, we are asking our Official Board to urge our new Visioning Team to pursue the possibility of sharing pastoral responsibilities with neighbouring congregations – the Seeley's Bay Pastoral Charge, in particular, who are facing challenges in many ways like our own.



Julie Price is investigating the feasibility of having "Movie Nights" (perhaps at suppertime with pizza available) in our own hall. Licensing can be arranged for the screening of appropriate movies, and these could become popular family events.

A motion was passed unanimously at the September Session meeting, authorizing Director of Music Paul Harding to obtain an estimate from technician Sylvain Brisson for tuning and essential repairs to our pipe organ and report back. Session will report to Official Board that the organ is a cherished and integral part of services and recommend undertaking these repairs. Funding suggestions include the Memorial Fund, sponsorship, a fund-raising campaign for this specific project, a grant from EOORC, or any combination of the same.



Members of the congregation are reminded that sponsorship of special worship expenses, whether candles or trumpeters, are always welcome. Donations can be made to the Church Office (make sure you identify the gift), and tax receipts will be issued. Your generosity is always appreciated. We are planning for a brass ensemble to help us celebrate Christmas on December 21st. Can you help?

Remain optimistic, but be aware of troubling times ahead

By Chuck Galway, chair

As the Autumn season approaches and after a busy and hot summer, the hard work continues for the many dedicated members and volunteers of Grace United Church. You should all be proud of your accomplishments, both spiritually and financially, that we have achieved this year to date.

We seemed to have stabilized our finances by adjusting to our present situation of Lay Worship Leaders for Sunday services. We still must address the need for Pastoral Care and Community Outreach for our members and greater faith community. I have no doubt that a solution can and will be found for this need in our church.

At our last Official Board meeting, Rev Lynne Gardiner told us of the recent report from the United Church of Canada office, regarding the future membership numbers. The report says that in 10 years the membership of the U.C. of Canada will decline to approximately 8,000 from our present 250,000 members. This is a staggering statistic! We and all other United Churches have to deal with this rapidly approaching reality!

It is my privilege to be your Chairman of your Official Board and please do not hesitate to contact me if you think there is an issue that you think I should address.

Respectfully

Chuck Galway
lyndwayhills@gmail.com
613 532 1217

Notes on Choir, Organ and Concerts

By Paul Harding

Our successful concerts continue this year.

The first was **Turpin's Trail**, on September 10th. A large and enthusiastic audience enjoyed the down-home entertainment of Chris Murphy and friends.

Grace United Church
presents a Celebration of
Kenny Rogers
&
Dolly Parton



Join Cliff Edwards, Abby Stewart and friends, Ken Hall, Dan Kasaboski, Noah St Amand and Duncan Holt as they perform the hits from these two great Artists.

'Daytime Friends', 'Lucille', 'The Gambler', '9 to 5', 'Here You Come Again' and 'I Will Always Love You' are all featured in a show you won't want to miss

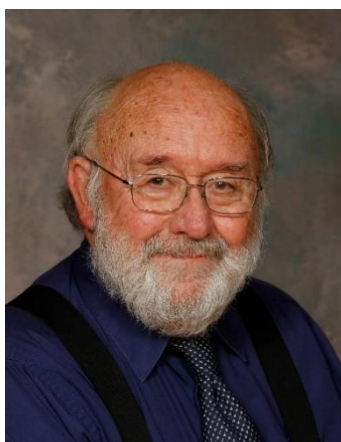
On Friday, October 17th at 7:30 p.m. we present a Celebration of the music of **Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton**, featuring our own Cliff Edwards and Abby Stewart, accompanied by musicians Ken Hall, Dan Kasaboski, Noah St. Amand and Duncan Holt. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door and are available at the Church Office, Beggars Banquet Books and the Gananoque Visitors Centre.

In November we are in for a real treat as familiar faces and voices of Maryanne Wainman and Frayne McCarthy join forces with our own Paul Harding to present an evening of **"WORDS AND MUSIC – Musical Theatre Favourites"**. Music and stories from "The Sound of Music", "Hairspray", "Phantom of the Opera", "Fiddler on the Roof", "Jesus Christ, Superstar", "Guys and Dolls", "Les Misérables", "Mamma Mia", "Anything Goes" and much, much more. This trio will satisfy your hunger for the songs of musical theatre.

Wednesday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m. at Grace United Church. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door and are available at the Church Office, Beggars Banquet Books and the Gananoque Visitors Centre. Come out and immerse yourself in a fine evening's entertainment.



Maryanne Wainman



Paul Harding



Frayne McCarthy

Grace United Church's Senior Choir is underway, rehearsing anthems for Sunday Worship services. As well, choir members and friends are sharing hymns with residents at both Fox Run and Carveth Care Centre. Director of Music Paul Harding and Licensed Lay Worship Leader Tammy Fergusson offer leadership for these events.

Our wonderful pipe organ is in need of some tuning, and arrangements are being made with Sylvain Brisson of Embrun, Ontario to carry out a complete tuning and some much-needed repairs. Stay tuned as to how you can help.





Grace United Church Gananoque

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For You



Grace United Church Morning Worship - September 14, 2025

35 views · Streamed 4 days ago



Grace United Church Morning Worship - August 31, 2025

15 views · Streamed 11 days ago



Grace United Church Morning Worship - August 17, 2025

25 views · Streamed 1 month ago



Grace United Church Morning Worship - July 14, 2025

43 views · Streamed 2 months ago

Grace United continues to be a presence on YouTube and Cogeco TV

Weekly broadcasts of our worship services continue – we stream live each week to YouTube (barring technical glitches) and the following week at 10:30 a.m. on Cogeco TV Community Channel. Though we have no way of knowing how many viewers watch the service on Cogeco, there is no cost to us for this broadcast so we continue to share our service with Cogeco. The recording of our morning worship is edited by Paul Harding (Cogeco requires our service to be 57.00 minutes - no more, no less); this work takes 1-2 hours each Sunday. YouTube, free as well, provides much more comprehensive statistics, though they may be misleading. We have 143 subscribers – these people are notified each time we publish a service to YouTube. As an example, the September 14th service shows 34 views, but the average watch time was 9-1/2 minutes. Martin Hawley's Celebration of Life got 72 views, though a private link was shared with the family and those views are not included. We continue to monitor the quality and value of our media presence in the community.



Continued support of time and talents is essential

By Vicki Leakey, Treasurer

As we enter a very busy fall for members of our congregation and as I review the financial position, I am pleased to provide the following observations. As at August 2025 compared to August 2024, we have had to transfer only \$11,000 from the Trustees compared to an \$80,000 transfer in the prior year. It was a slow summer, but we are still solid.!

I truly need for all of us to congratulate those members in the congregation that not only give their best financially to keep the funds coming in, but they give excessive time to support all the fundraising efforts that have by far surpassed anything received for many years – including revenues from our monthly rentals. I urge every member of our church family to understand how the gift of your time assisting with fundraising and community projects is what is bringing in funds that keep us operating.

We are an aging congregation; however, it is the seniors of our church family that carve out and dedicate the time that has brought the success recognized in our financials as of now. Thank you for staying and preparing our pies, opening, closing the church and moving furniture on stage as required for every concert, staying as our representative for groups using our facilities to run the elevator as required, clean up in our kitchen and again making sure our church is safely locked up after an event. For any church member that perhaps has not been aware of the background volunteer work involved, please consider reaching out to see where you might assist or share an idea for a fundraising event.

We also need to give a shout out to our community members that not only come to support the events we have worked to put on, but they make every effort to come out to concerts, markets, exercise programs that are made available throughout the Town. Many are having a range of struggles at this time and allowing organized social events to help with feelings of isolation, including programs that allow for no cost meals funded from those dollars raised to assist with outreach programs is a wonderful gift we can give. Again, a huge thanks to the gifts of time and dollars from our church family that allow this church to continue to be a hub in the community.

To remind you, we have several Offerings' options available for those that may wish to provide continued support during the winter months when some may have the opportunity for extended travel to a warmer climate. **E-transfer** from your on-line bank account is popular, you can look for "send an e-transfer" on your online banking website and send to grace.gan@outlook.com. Just follow the instructions given.

Offerings by mail is another option – send post dated cheques by mail to Grace Church at 120 Pine St. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7.

Personally, I am very proud to be part of this team of caring individuals all doing our best for our church family as well as to try and meet the needs of the community.

May we all find peace in the upcoming months as we work to create a better tomorrow.

Lots Happening at Grace United this Fall

By Laurie Cadue

There are several outside groups using our facilities this fall.

These activities include:

- The Seniors Association who are holding exercise class here every Monday and Thursday from 9 to 10am and an "AI" writing class, starting September 26th.
- CPHC is offering Fall Prevention Classes on Mondays & Thursdays following the senior's group from 11 to 12 am.
- Girl Guides will be returning to Grace on Tuesday nights, starting September 30th. They will meet every Tuesday night from 6 to 7:30pm until June.
- Community Kitchen meet the 4th Wednesday each month from 4pm to 7:30pm and provide a free dinner for all who attend. They also give great advice on preparing budget friendly meals. Volunteers for this are greatly appreciated.
- Brightside Paint Nights – Brightside hold paint nights, the second Tuesday of each month. No experience is necessary. Each month is a different theme.
- Quilters are here each Tuesday morning from 9 to noon. This lovely group of women create beautiful works of art that they donate to various causes in the area.
- UCW Fall Rally – Wednesday, October 15th – all day
- Friday, November 28th – Choral Society Concert

- Saturday, November 29th – Christmas Market
- Saturday, December 6th – Melodia Concert – Food Bank Fundraiser,

As well as outside groups we also have our church Committees and Boards who hold their regular monthly or quarterly meetings.

- UCW – the 3rd Monday each month
- Knifty Knitters – monthly
- Pies for God's Sake - 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month.

We have a wonderful performer renting Grace United Church to promote his new solo album on October 22nd. Tickets for this event are available through Eventbrite. A link can be found on Kaleb's website.

kalebhikele.com

Kaleb Hikele's 'Storytelling' Tour is the debut of a new solo album, performed live on stage from front to back, in Gananoque for one night only at Grace United Church! With special guests The Russells.

Kaleb Hikele is a Canadian singer-songwriter and prolific recording artist. In the fall of 2025, Kaleb is touring his new album, Storytelling, by premiering it on stage, from front to back, with a live debut before the album is even released. It will be performed as if you're listening to the vinyl record; Side A in full, flip the record - Side B in full, no dialogue - just the songs and their stories.



Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address? If you would like to be kept up to date with all the church events and news, please call the church office to update your information.

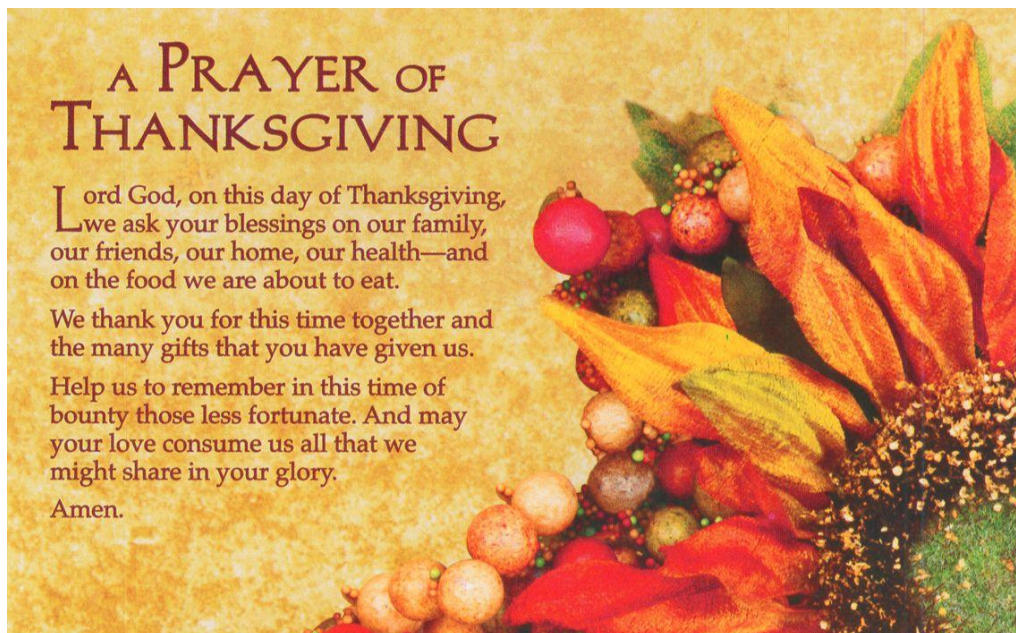
Happy Birthday or Anniversary to all those who are celebrating over the next few months. We pray that what ever your celebration may be, that you are blessed by family and friends.

Our sincere condolences to all who have lost loved ones in recent months. Know that your family at Grace United is praying you find comfort and peace.

We at Grace we deeply sadden by the death of Martin Hawley. Martin was an active church member as well as community member. He will be missed by many. Rest in peace Martin.

Revelation 21:4 (New International Version)

⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'^[a] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'



This month's contributors are - Chuck Galway, Brian Brooks, Colleen Harding, Paul Harding, Vicki Leakey, Elaine Davidson, Laurie Cadue, Christina Kaya, Dianna Grier & Paul Scott.

Deadline for Winter Edition - Saturday, November 15, 2025.