

# Gray Weekly News



## Week Leading to Sunday August 7, 2022

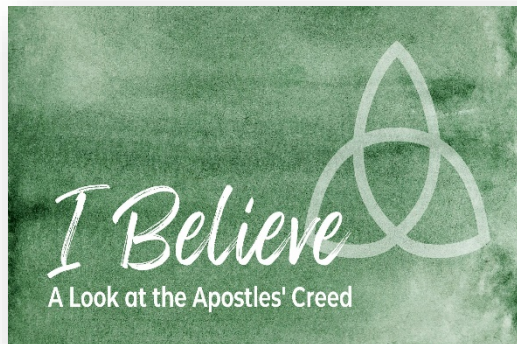
### The Fragility of Belief

Let me introduce myself by offering a brief discussion of The Fragility of Belief. I am Frederick Lucies, and I'm thrilled to be doing something that is of service to others. There is no fragility in the practice of serving others. Belief can be fragile, but service cannot.

As you may know, I began my adult life as a Roman Catholic priest. I was proud as a peacock and thrilled about touching the lives of other human beings with respect and goodness (increasingly rare commodities in our world of social networking).

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## Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalm 8

John 1:1=5

## **I Believe in God**

## News and Notes

### THIS WEEK

**Sunday, August 7**

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch our livestream at [graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com](http://graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com) or [graymemorialumc.org/youtube](http://graymemorialumc.org/youtube), at 11 am or any time after that at [graymemorialumc.org/](http://graymemorialumc.org/)



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

### Prayer Requests

Sam and Norma Adams

Patsy and Betty

Sylvia Morrow

Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman

Joyce and Bob

The Varnadore Family

Anita

All those suffering from illness, afflictions and recovering from surgeries

So, I was bursting with the energies of faith and basked in the goodness of the people that I served. I was overflowing with excitement and hope. I took my high school folks out to climb a mountain where, at the top, we celebrated Eucharist.

The start of the break-down of my service in the ministry was my attendance at clergy events. I found myself to be astonished by an abundance of smugness, and an aroma of superiority. In my own living situation, I was starkly confronted by behaviors and attitudes that, in my youthful enthusiasm, were utterly contrary to what I expect them to be. In the middle of my third year, these threads caused me to believe that I could no longer sustain my ministry. As I decided to leave, and consulted Bishop, the pastor enjoined me not to tell anyone that I was leaving, and to back up a U-Haul behind the rectory under cover of darkness.

Several years of dislocation and struggle followed my departure. I felt lost and fragile and unsure of what to do next, and in 1979, a Master's in Divinity was not a path to employment! Eventually, I found a way to use my BA in English to find work in Publishing and e-Commerce, spending the next 30 years in the bosom of Corporate America.

Since then, I have read widely, questioning just about everything that I've ever believed, so I know that belief can have a high degree of fragility.

These days, my biggest concern about belief is the rise of Christian Nationalism. It is clear to me that is not about belief, but about power. The Founders understood this and knew that church and state required separation, for to do otherwise would do harm to both the church and the state.

And, the older I get, the more I am aware of the fragility of my beliefs.

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### **Ginny Owens Concert at Killearn UMC and FSU Wesley Foundation**

Singer/songwriter Ginny Owens is an award-winning Christian influencer who has spent two decades making music, writing books, teaching, and has just finished her Masters of Biblical Studies. Ginny, blind since the age of 3, has sung at the White House, the Sundance Film Festival, Lilith Fair and the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C. In 2000, she was named the Gospel Music Association's New Artist of the Year, beginning an award-winning streak that also includes Inspirational Song of the Year and various songwriting awards.

There are two opportunities to see Ginny Owens in concert:

- FSU Wesley Foundation | September 16th | 6:30 PM | 705 W Jefferson St, Tallahassee, FL 32304 | Limited seating of 500.
- Killearn UMC | September 17th | 6:30 PM | 2800 Shamrock Street South, Tallahassee, FL 32309 | Limited seating of 350.

This concert is FREE, we are encouraging people to give a love offering in lieu of ticket price. To register to attend, go to <https://kumc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/829/responses/new>

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Wednesday, August 3	12 noon	Wonderful Wednesday Brown Bag Lunch <b>BRING YOUR LUNCH AND JOIN US!</b>
Wednesday, August 3	7 pm	Bible Study with Todd Clark via Zoom
Thursday, August 5	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study with John Rogers Choir Practice
Sunday, August 7	11 am	Worship Service
Tuesday August 9	2 pm 7 pm	United Methodist Women in Faith Executive Council (via Zoom)
Wednesday, August 10	7 pm	Bible Study with Todd Clark via Zoom
Thursday, August 12	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study with John Rogers Choir Practice

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### **Save the Date**

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Annual Charge Conference at 4:00 pm with special guest, Wayne Wiatt, District Superintendent, NW District of the FLUMC. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!