

# This Week At FCC

Sunday	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Bible Study (Tom Frisbie)
	6:00 pm	Community Practice

## August Prayer Emphasis: Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic

The Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic, a mission we support, is a Christ-centered ministry offering free medical services, counseling, and support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Their mission is to share the love of Jesus by empowering women to choose life and providing healing for those impacted by abortion. Through education, material support, and compassionate care, they serve as a beacon of hope in our community. This month, we invite you to join us in prayer over this mission as we lift up the staff, the mothers they serve, and the lives they work so faithfully to protect.

## Guest Speaker: Bob Berry— August 31st

Brad will be enjoying some time off next weekend. On Sunday, August 31 we are excited to welcome Bob Berry as our guest speaker! Bob has served in ministry for more than 60 years, including 27 years as lead pastor at Seymour Heights Christian Church. Through Itty Bitty Seed Ministries, he has led mission teams around the world, sharing Christ's love and serving where encouragement and help are needed.

### Sunday school classes meet at 9:00 am in the following locations

#### Adult Classes

Bible Studies for Life	(Steve Owens)	EDW 101
Letters to the Churches	(Ashley Farley)	EDW 102
Explore the Bible	(Ray Crowe)	EDW 103
Truth Seekers	(Wayne Kirkland)	EDW 105

#### Children & Youth Classes

Preschool	(Kelly Windlan)	Preschool room
K-3th Grade	(Josh Hale)	K-3 room
4-6th Grade	(Kim Snyder)	4-6 room
7-12 Grade	(Daniel Snyder)	Teen room

August 24, 2025

## OUR VISION AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Making Disciples in Cookeville, Putnam County, and to the ends of the earth.



### Current Sermon Series:

What if the greatest threats to your well-being aren't loud or obvious—but quiet and hidden? In this four-part series, we'll uncover the subtle poisons of toxic thoughts, influence, relationships, and religion—and learn how to recognize and remove them before they take root.

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### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US AND WHAT WE BELIEVE VISIT US AT

Social Links



Connect Card



**Message Note 8/24/2025**  
**TOXIC 04 TOXIC RELIGION**  
**Brad Windlan First Christian Church**  
**Learn more: [fcc-cookeville.org](http://fcc-cookeville.org)**

**RELIGION (Root word)** “to return to \_\_\_\_\_”

**Toxic**—anything containing poisonous material capable of causing serious sickness or even \_\_\_\_\_.

**Galatians 1:6-7 (NIV)** “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

**PERVERT: (Greek):** to pervert, to corrupt, to distort or to \_\_\_\_\_.

## **2 Common Elements of Toxic Religion**

**#1** It focuses on the \_\_\_\_\_ rather than on the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 23:25 (NIV)** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.”

**#2** It promotes spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 18:9-12 (NIV)** “To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10 ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’”

**Romans 3:20-22 (NIV, 84)** “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known...22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

**Luke 18:13-14a (NIV)** "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.'”

## **TALK IT OVER**

1. Religion vs. Relationship--How have you personally experienced the difference between trying to “earn” God’s approval through religious effort and living out of the freedom of a relationship with Jesus?
2. External vs. Internal--Jesus warned against focusing on outward appearances while neglecting the heart (Matthew 23:25). In what ways do you see “external-focused” religion show up in the church today, and how can we help each other live from the inside out?
3. Pride vs. Humility--The Pharisee compared himself to others, while the tax collector simply cried for mercy (Luke 18:9–14). Why do you think spiritual pride is so dangerous? How can humility shape our testimony so that it points people to the pure gospel rather than to ourselves?