



# A Home of Our Own

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After 13 years doing church in a box, Copper Creek Church has a home of our own! As a satellite campus of First Presbyterian Church, CCC spent 5 years worshipping on Sundays in an elementary school in Champaign. After becoming a new church development, CCC met for 8 years in the YMCA. We set up 200+ chairs, projectors, screens, a complete A/V system, curtains and stages over 650 times. We estimate that we brewed over 10,000 pots of coffee on Sunday mornings during our 13 years of meeting in rented space. We learned a lot as a mobile church. But we're glad to finally have a home of our own.

It has taken us about 3 years to get from the initial planning phase to the completion of our new building. On August 30, 2020, CCC held our first worship services inside our brand new facility. Our vision as a church is to create a space

that feels like home for people who have walked away from church. With that in mind, we tried to design a facility that was welcoming and inviting... especially for people who may have had a bad experience with church previously. As such, the new facility doesn't look much like a church. We knew, though, that we had hit the right note when we began to hear from our new neighbors and from people walking by the construction site.

Numerous people talked about how excited they were to see



how uniqueness and warmth of this new space. One mom (who does not attend church) in the neighborhood next door told us her daughter heard there was an indoor playground in the building and has been announcing to her mom that they were going to start going to church when it opened.

The interior of the building is designed to create spaces for people to share life together. There are spaces for people looking for places to work remotely. There are living room type

spaces where small groups might gather. There is an indoor playground with a big glass wall so parents can let their kids play while they enjoy a cup of coffee and talk with a friend. There is a big indoor fireplace with couches and comfy chairs if someone just needs a warm, quiet place to pray or journal.

We designed a "kid's space" that doesn't have designated classrooms. Instead, it has a large multi-purpose room where kids will gather after the children's message in the sanctuary and then divide into age specific areas in the room. We are calling this space "The Creek" and we put in a blue

carpeted creek that weaves through the room and will help create those age specific spaces.

Due to pandemic related restrictions, we are taking several steps to be safe in our new facility. We are currently running 4 worship services and each service is limited to 50 people, including band and tech volunteers. (We are also continuing to focus on providing a high quality online worship experience and we consider that a worship service of its own.)

We require masks and we ask people not to sing aloud. We do a health check as people enter and we disinfect every high touch surface between every service. Even with those restrictions, our congregation is so grateful for the opportunity to finally worship in our own space. We look forward to hosting Presbytery meetings in the future!