

THE MADERA CHURCH STORY

2018 – 2019

After two years of planning, in June of 2018, the Evangelical Free Church of Green Valley (EFCGV) approved a plan to plant a church in the Madera neighborhoods near Continental School and then hired Bill White as the Church Planting Pastor. The White family moved to Green Valley in July 2019.

In late 2019, a Leadership Team and a Launch Team were formed. A 2020 budget was approved and we rented Continental School to be our initial meeting location.

2020 - 2021

The name “Madera Church” was selected. A social media presence was created with a web site and a Facebook page. Our Purpose, Mission and Values were documented. The church Vision was cast to over 60 volunteers and charter members. We purchased the Church in a Box trailer full of the essentials to begin corporate worship.

Then the PANDEMIC hit and we could not meet in Continental School. So, God guided the Leadership Team to launch Madera Church on-line.

Three weeks later, on April 10, 2020, Easter Sunday, Pastor Bill preached his first video message from Madera Canyon! Weekly services were provided to our virtual congregation thereafter through August.

In September, we started meeting for the first time in-person at EFCGV. We began outside in the parking lot and eventually moved into the Fellowship Hall. Up to 75 people attended our first Partnership (membership) Class with over 30 choosing to become partners of Madera Church (our charter members). Training for Life Group Leaders was conducted and 7 Life Groups were formed. We held our first outdoor Christmas Eve candle light service on December 23rd.

God also brought to our attention a 15 acre undeveloped property on Whitehouse Canyon Road which would be a great location for a future Madera Church permanent home. A 180 day Purchase Agreement was signed by EFCGV in December.

In 2023, the EFCGV congregation approved a loan to purchase the property in February and a Due Diligence Team was formed to do a thorough evaluation of the site.

On March 21st, we held our first service in the Continental School gymnasium. We later shifted to the Cafeteria and have been meeting there since, except for holidays. 60 people attended our Easter Service.

After the property was surveyed and evaluated by an architect, it was determined that it had potential for a 850 person church campus plus a K-12 school. So, on 6/10/21, EFCGV purchased the property with the intention of generously giving it to Madera Church after the purchase loan was paid off.

2022 - 2023

God continued to bless Madera Church in so many ways. Our ministries grew, volunteers increased and our identity as a loving, friendly and welcoming church was established. In July, generous giving and on-going support from EFCGV allowed us to add a second pastor, Ryan Walters and his family, to focus on Youth and Outreach. On November 17, 2022 the By-laws were approved and the partners approved the Elder Team, Deacon Team, Leadership Team and church Officers. Madera Church became a Nonprofit Corporation of the State of Arizona. By the end of 2022, 130 people were attending weekly services and there were 44 partners.

Our growth continued in 2024 on many fronts including 150 attending in person plus 100 on-line and a total of 61 partners. We were excited when our Easter attendance hit 200! We went on our first Mission trip. We added a fourth elder. We held our first Sports Camp (54 campers with 16 accepting Jesus). We signed a 3 year lease for 1500 sq ft of office space in the Continental Plaza complete with a big outdoor sign. God led our people to start giving toward a future building on the property and our Building Fund continued to grow. We held our first joint service with EFCGV which included an opportunity for special giving to help retire the loan on the property.

2024 - 2025

We began looking for possible interim meeting locations to accommodate our projected growth, if we were not financially ready to build on the property. Nearly 300 people attended the Easter service in the gymnasium. Continued focus on Life Groups, Youth Ministry and Outreach. Conducted 15 interviews of Community Leaders to assess the top needs of our neighbors and guide our outreach activities.

Held our second joint service with EFCGV including special giving to help retire the property loan.

In 2025, ROOTED was implemented as our church wide major Discipleship ministry. EFCGV concluded their very generous 6 years of decreasing financial support and we became financially self-sustaining. After determining that all known storefronts and commercial spaces were not viable as interim meeting locations, God shifted our focus to paying off the land loan, obtaining the title to the land and building on the property. Held our third joint service with EFCGV to help retire the loan on the property.

2026

Pastor Ryan's call to another church caused us to seek a Family Pastor who will focus on ministry continuity for families and children from infants to young adults.

The Land loan was paid off and the title to the property was transferred to Madera Church from EFCGV on 6/3/26. The property was commercially appraised to quantify its value as part of the plans for developing it.

We remain in awe of all that God has done as He has grown Madera Church over these 7 years. We also look forward with great faith and anticipation for what He will do next!