

Hills Church of God to launch 2nd service

Farmington Hills Church of God is launching a second Sunday morning worship celebration beginning Easter Sunday, April 16.

"We are finding that people are busy and their schedules are full — even on Sundays. Some people like to sleep in, while others are early risers. By giving people another option, we are reiterating that we value these times of community worship. And we also understand and support families in their commitments and their social activities," said the Rev. Gordon Steinke, pastor of Farmington Hills Church of God.

The church also holds a service at 11 a.m. Sunday school classes for children or the adult education electives are offered at 10 a.m.

Farmington Hills Church of God describes itself as a "Place for Caring... Growing... Serving." "We aspire to be a caring place where we empathize and respond to individual needs, social, relational and spiritual, as we encourage people towards a personal relationship with God. And we affirm the importance of serving. We invite everyone according to their interests to become involved in serving God by serving people," Steinke said.

The church has been active in Farmington Hills for 22 years. It started out as two congregations. The Church of God was developed to emphasize unity with the idea of not drawing distinctions between different denominations, Steinke said.

In fact, the church doesn't have a formal membership registration. About 125 people attend on Sundays. "That's a number you can do a lot with in terms of ministry," he said.

Built in 1973 on Power Road between 10 and 11 Mile, the church was expanded in 1990.

The focus is on children, youth and families, as a large percentage of the families that attend have children in the kindergarten through fifth-grade age group, Steinke said.

Dean Meadows, associate pastor, coordinates a youth ministry which includes recreation, study and service.

One of the highlights is a monthly night of participation and service at the Detroit Rescue Mission. This summer a week-long trip to a ranch in Wyoming is being planned.

Meadows also leads the musical portion of the Sunday morning worship times. The worship can be described as contemporary with an appreciation for the



In the spirit: Publicity chairman Laurie Strauss and the Rev. Gordon Steinke are two of the people behind the projects at the Farmington Hills Church of God.

church's musical history, Steinke said. A guitar, piano and organ as well as four vocalists lead the congregation in short choruses of praise as well as the well-known hymns of the Christian church.

Adult Sunday school offers classes on various topics. Publicity chairman Laurie Strauss gets people into the act by putting up signs saying what the Salvation Army needs for its pantry or organizing the making of lunches for Habitat for Humanity workers among many other things.

She's also organizing a tag sale rummage sale for Saturday, May

20, at the church. The church will rent out parking spaces and people will display their wares in an adjacent space.

As Steinke says, his is just a church making contributions like many other churches. "We want to be a group which affirms the positive message and relevancy of the Bible. A truly full and whole life is only possible as we nurture our spiritual being and develop that personal relationship with God."

Farmington Hills Church of God is at 25717 Power Road, Farmington Hills. (810) 477-9144.

Series to explore a life with no fear

Farmington Hills Church of God is planning a series "Come Explore God's Answers to Life with No Fear" Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. starting April 16.

- April 16 "No fear of crime, violence and tomorrow"
- April 23 "No fear of ending up a failure"
- April 30 "No fear of facing our past wounds"
- May 7 "No fear of a righteous judging God"
- May 14 "No fear of being a good enough parent"
- May 21 "No fear of being rejected alone"
- May 28 "No fear of becoming sick and facing death"

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