

Hello Faculty and Staff,

Staff Retreat is 10 days away, and I have spent the past month praying through this year's theme verse, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

As our world longs for peace, mercy, restoration, healing, and wholeness in every way, I am reminded that Jesus' prayer for the disciples is also a prayer for us. At this year's staff retreat, we will be picking up from our theme verse at Keynote and I believe God has a timely word of encouragement for us through our very own [Ivan and Grace Utomo](#), [Pastor Jay Kim from Westgate Church](#), and musical worship led by [Pastor Grayson Kessenich from Crossroads Live](#) from Northern California.

Here are a few important details and links so you know what to expect:

- **The Boardwalk** – We are excited to rent part of the Boardwalk as a corporate event open to our VCS family. We will have a continental breakfast, a BBQ lunch, access to the Giant Dipper, bumper cars, carousel, arcade, mini golf, sand volleyball, and ice cream treats. Other typical Boardwalk foods will be available for purchase in Neptune's Kingdom.
- **Travel to and from the Boardwalk:** Please feel free to organize your own carpool.
- **Podcast** – A pre-retreat podcast to prepare you for the retreat will be available on Wednesday, October 25th, at <https://www.vcs.net/staffretreat>
- **Parking** – At check-in, you will receive a parking validation voucher to be used when exiting.
- **Accessibility** – The Boardwalk is ADA-compliant, with an elevator to the ballroom at Entrance B at Coconut Grove. A lactation room is available.
- **Prayer Groups** – After lunch, we will meet in prayer groups. Groups will find a place around the Boardwalk to pray after lunch. We will be sending out a link listing the prayer groups next week. Group leaders will be receiving a separate e-mail with prayer prompts.
- **Childcare** – Childcare is onsite in a room adjacent to our meeting room. Please RSVP for childcare here <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvj0MpAWTmDhr-gz3mgDWAKP3rKt9qCibAzBEp0k7MfixIEA/viewform>.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Enjoy the drive to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk while listening to our morning devotional podcast to prepare our hearts and minds for God. Pre-Retreat Podcast will be available on Wednesday, October 25th at www.vcs.net/staffretreat

8:30 - 9:00 am	Arrival and Check-In at Entrance A of the Coconut Grove <i>Bagels, Fruit, and Coffee reception</i>
9:00 - 10:30 am	Welcome & Roadmap Worship with Grayson Kessenich Message by Pastor Jay Kim Message by Ivan and Grace Utomo
10:30 am-1:30 pm	See BOARDWALK ACTIVITY OPTIONS below
11:30 am - 1:00 pm	BBQ Buffet Lunch (registered staff kids included)
1:30 - 2:00 pm	Let's Pray Groups
2:00 pm	Enjoy our afternoon devotional podcast on the ride home!

BOARDWALK ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- 10:30 – 11:30 am Inspire Your Future Self with Dr. Steve McGriff
 Needing to Connect with Others on a Deeper Level with Amy Hernandez
- 10:30 am - 1:30 pm Arcade, Mini Golf, Laser Tag & Volleyball
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm Exclusive Rides: Giant Dipper, Bumper Cars, and Carousel

CHILDCARE SCHEDULE

- 8:30 - 9:00 am Arrival and Check-In
- 9:00 - 11:00 am Morning Session Childcare
- 11:00 am - 1:30 pm Pick up your child for lunch.
 Pending height restrictions, kids may join you on the available rides.
- 1:30 - 2:00 pm Childcare during Prayer Groups

And now, may the God of peace surround you with His love. May God grant you strength for the work ahead and a tangible sense of His grace this month.

Grace and Peace,



Steve Dang
 Campus Pastor
 Chief Ministry Officer

<https://www.vcs.net/staffretreat>

