The Whidbey Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope, to be held at St. Augustine's-in-the-Woods (Freeland) on Sunday at 3:00 PM on October 30, is a very significant and timely event. This, the 8th annual community interfaith peace vigil, will feature Seattle's "Interfaith Amigos." The “Interfaith Amigos” are Imam Jamal Rahman (Sufi Sunni Muslim), Rabbi Ted Falcon (Reform Judaism) and Pastor Don Mackenzie (United Church of Christ - Congregational Church). The Amigos will speak and answer questions for at least an hour. The focus will be on the possibility that interfaith dialogue can bring actual collaboration to work for peace in the name of religion – instead of violence in the name of religion.

While the primary focus of this year’s Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope will be a discussion led by the Interfaith Amigos, the service will also contain Buddhist and Native American spiritual traditions. The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton (Trinity Episcopal, Everett) will begin the service with a First Nations smudging ceremony to cleanse the sacred space. Following the cleansing of the sanctuary, short peace and justice excerpts from the Qua’ran, Isaiah from Hebrew Bible, Christian Gospel of Matthew, Buddha in the Dhammapada and the Hindu Taittiriya Upanishad will be read. Dairin of the One Drop Zen Buddhist community of Freeland will offer a meditation and lead the gathering in a sutra. The J Bees from Mukilteo will sing a Buddhist chant - *Gate (Gaatay), Gate (Gaatay)*. As in previous interfaith vigils, recording artist, Karl Olsen of the Brothers Four, will lead the gathering in song.
Island churches, faith communities and peace groups involved in the vigil planning and participation are the Tahoma One Drop Zen Buddhist Monastery, Langley United Methodist Church, St. Hubert’s Roman Catholic, Trinity Lutheran, Whidbey Friends Worship Group (Quakers), St. Augustine’s Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and Unitarian Universalists.

Although expressing different worship traditions and understandings of the Almighty, the different faiths have a call for justice and peace as a common denominator. The Interfaith Vigil of Peace and Hope is a wonderful opportunity for Whidbey residents to share in different worship traditions while experiencing a common desire for peace and justice expressed in prayers, readings and music. It is expected that this event of prayer, music and meditation will again be well attended by the various Whidbey faith communities.

St. Augustine’s-in-the-Woods Episcopal Church in Freeland is located at 5217 S. Honeymoon Bay Road.