

PC(USA) International Peacemaker to Visit St. Andrew and First Presbyterian in Iowa City, September 25



Hold open your Sunday afternoon on **September 25 from 2:30-4:00pm** to help welcome and learn from Dr. Tamar Wasoian about both the suffering and hopes for peace of Christians in the Middle East. We will be meeting at First Presbyterian on Rochester Avenue to hear her message followed by an informal conversation and refreshments.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD. MATTHEW 5:9

Since 1984, more than 220 international peacemakers from more than 57 countries have been hosted by Presbyterians across the United States. St. Andrew is privileged to have hosted five Peacemakers over the past six years, and to welcome this year, jointly with First Presbyterian Church, Dr. Wasoian. Her homelands are Armenia and Syria, and she began her seminary education at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. After service with the Armenian Evangelical Church in Syria, she answered the call to head the Christian Education Ministry in the Republic of Armenia following its independence from the Soviet Union.

In 2001, she entered McCormick Theological Seminary to complete her education. She then returned to teach and minister in Armenia and later returned to the U.S. to complete her doctorate. Dr. Wasoian currently lives in Chicago, teaching both at McCormick and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminaries. Her fields of interest include Armenian history, communal traditions, and faith and identity. Dr. Wasoian is hopeful the churches and presbyteries she speaks with this fall will gain a better idea of Armenian struggles, both historic and current, especially as they relate to what is happening in Syria.



She says she's happy to be involved with the [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#) to share her stories with U.S. congregations. "Seeing all the destruction and hatred in my homelands, I wonder how all of these came about?" she asked. "How did we, faith communities of all colors, fail in recognizing the 'God' in each other? Peace on Earth is not just a season's greeting but an existential

KEEP YOUR TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND YOUR LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. DEPART FROM EVIL, AND DO GOOD; SEEK PEACE, AND PURSUE IT. PSALM 34:13-14