

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

An Interfaith Service for Syria



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Sunday, April 8

3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

First Churches of Northampton

129 Main Street
Northampton, MA

Cosponsors include:

Beit Ahavah
Congregation B'nai Israel
Critical Connections
Edwards Church
First Churches of Northampton
Grace Episcopal Church Amherst
Hampshire Association of the Massachusetts
Conference of the United Church of Christ
Interfaith Council of Franklin County
Interfaith Opportunities Network
Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts
Peace and Justice Committee of First Churches
Pioneer Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group
Refugee Support Project of Temple Israel
Second Congregational Church of Greenfield
Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist
Society of Amherst
Sojourner Truth School for Social Change Leadership
Tikkun Olam Committee of the Jewish Community
of Amherst
Traprock Center for Peace and Justice.

INVOCATION

Reverend Todd Weir, Pastor of
First Churches of Northampton

GUEST SPEAKERS

Ahed Festuk, a Syrian refugee, will
speak about her experiences. Ahed
will be interviewed by Mehlaqua
Samdani of Critical Connections.

Professor Steven Heydemann,
Director of Smith College Middle East
Studies Program, will speak briefly
about the current situation in Syria.

**Students from the Amherst Regional
HS Refugees in Distress Committee**
will speak about their work on behalf
of Syria.

SERVICE

The program will include readings
(prayers, poetry, stories)

Music by the **First Churches Choir**,
with audience participation

Closing benediction by
Naz Mohamed of the
Hampshire Mosque

ACTION

Those who come to the service will
be given the opportunity to take an
action and make a donation to the
Syrian Emergency Task Force (SETF)
in support of their humanitarian
efforts, particularly in Idlib. Soup
for Syria cookbooks will also be
available – proceeds will go to SETF.

This event is free and open to the
public.



Photo: UNHCR/J. Seregni

This event is sponsored by the **Valley Syrian Relief Committee (VSRC)**: Michael Kane, Sara Weinberger and Debbie Shriver. For further information e-mail VSRC at valleysyrianrelief@gmail.com, or call 413-586-0403.