

THE LAND OF JESUS: THE HOLY LAND, THE HOLY PEOPLE

OCTOBER 1-11, 2024

Optional extension: The Wonders of Petra, October 11-15, 2024

Group Leaders: Rev. Janet Forbes and Bob Davis

Greetings!

I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead a pilgrimage group to Israel and Palestine on behalf of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. I was privileged to serve at the senior minister at St. Luke's from 2004 to 2016. This will be my sixth journey to the Holy Land and my husband, Bob's second. A friend at St. Luke's says that Holy Land travel gave her a 'pop-up' Bible. She'll never read a flat page again. The biblical stories spring to life after experiencing this land and its people.

I love traveling with *The Society for Biblical Studies*. Rev. Peter Miano, Executive Director (and our faculty), who has an office in both Arlington, Massachusetts and Beit Jala, West Bank, has spent decades nurturing interfaith relationships with indigenous leaders. The depth of these relationships brings to the traveler a great mix of the iconic biblical sites while being immersed in the complex issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in this land of three faiths: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

Rev. Peter's commitment is to redeem the experience of pilgrimage from commercial sightseeing through visiting with local people, refraining from 'kick-back' tourist traps, lodging in locally-owned hotels, and enjoying the ethnic cuisine.

Pilgrimage is both deeply spiritual and lots of fun! We'll relish in the unique beauty of the region's deserts, mountains, wadis and oases, find coffee in Manger Square, boat on the Sea of Galilee, and float in the salt sea.

We'll limit our travel group to thirty persons so that we can adapt easily to changes in conditions and enjoy room to mingle on our tour bus.

Our first information meeting is **Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 4:00pm** in the Chapel at St. Luke's. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Shalom, Salaam, Peace,
Janet (and Bob)

Rev. Dr. Janet L. Forbes
10726 Featherwalk Way
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
303-241-9312