

MEETING PEACEMAKERS PILGRIMAGE October 13-26, 2022

Israel/Palestine Study Tour

Cost \$2,300/person program fee, double occupancy.

Single Supplement, \$400

Fee includes hotels, ground transportation, tours, tips, breakfast & dinner daily, most lunches.

Does NOT include cost of airfare*, travel insurance, beverages with meals, 4 lunches, personal items.

(If COVID tests are still required in October to re-enter the USA, the cost of a rapid test in Israel will also be the participant's responsibility.)

**Led by Rev. Joan Deming,
Rev. Charlie Lewis, and Usama Nicola**

Call or email Joan with questions:
608-235-1046 ~ joan@meetingpeacemakers.com

Register early to assure your spot in this unique tour. \$500 due with registration.

Info on Meeting Peacemakers LLC:
<https://www.meetingpeacemakers.com>.



*TRAVEL INFO: Call our travel agent, Joy Harris, directly to make your airline reservations. We will travel on a Delta Airlines group ticket from Seattle (or your nearest large departure airport) to Tel Aviv.

Joy Harris, Direct Travel, Lynnwood, WA
800.622.3342, 425.775.1595 jharris@dt.com

All participants must be fully vaccinated (including available boosters). Given travel uncertainties under COVID, we also require individual purchase of comprehensive travel/health insurance.

Why Join Us?

This is an alternative tour aimed at helping participants experience the people and land of Palestine/Israel in deeply personal ways.

Since 2012, Rev. Joan Deming has led 15 listening/study tours to Israel/Palestine together with Usama Nicola and his colleagues from Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center in Bethlehem. This October's pilgrimage will be co-led by Rev. Charlie Lewis of Snohomish, Washington.

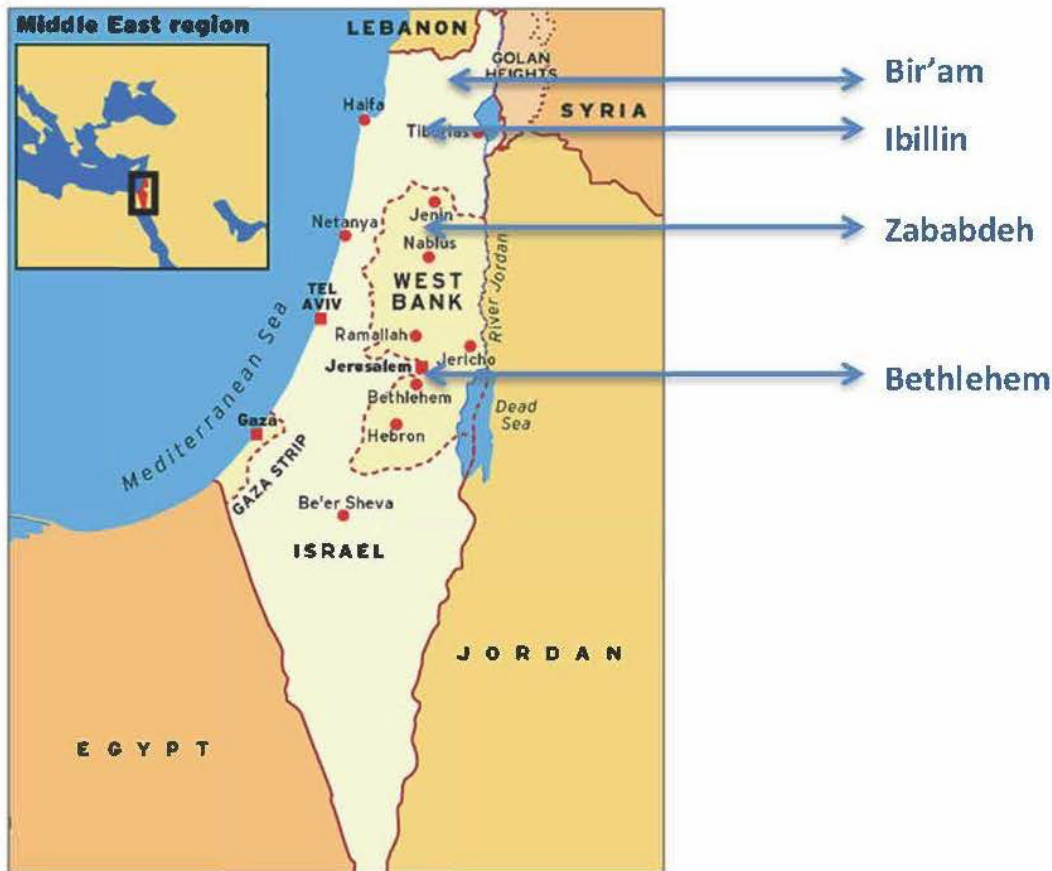
The pilgrimage group will include group members from the Northwest Coast Presbytery of the PC(USA), whose planned April 2020 tour had to be postponed due to Covid.

This tour welcomes any additional participants who want to deepen their own faith and seek a deeper understanding of the current reality for the Christians, Jews, and Muslims who share the land of Israel and Palestine today.

Maximum group size will be 25. (Minimum 16)



Usama Nicola, right, our Bethlehem-based Tour Planner & Staff member of Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center, and Fr. Firas Khoury Diab, left, our host in Zababdeh



Itinerary will include:

Oct 14: Arrive in Bethlehem, Stay 8 nights in The Holy Land Hotel on Al Karkfah Street

Key Visits and Experiences in the Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Ramallah Area:

- Visit and meet leaders of Wi'am (Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center) and learn about the social/spiritual/political situation in the West Bank
- Tour Aida Refugee Camp and visit Al Rowwad Community Center and the Seraj Library
- Worship on Sunday morning with the congregation of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem
- Visit/tour St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem; meet with Bishop Hosam Naoum at the Cathedral if possible
- Attend briefing by United Nations OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories)
- Visit the Ramallah offices of Defense for Children International-Palestine
- Tour Jerusalem and Bethlehem holy sites with Christian guides
- In the Old City of Jerusalem, get a guided tour of Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem; then walk the Via Dolorosa and visit the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Hebron and the area South of Bethlehem:

- Visit Hebron: Ibrahimi Mosque/Synagogue and souk, walk Shuhada Street, visit Community Peacemaker Teams
- Visit the Tent of Nations, Nassar family farm; tour the farm, hear about their 30-year struggle to keep their land from being taken as State Land by Israel; help with the olive harvest if it has begun by the time of our visit
- Visit the Cremisan winery; observe nearby expansion of settlements and Wall, and the village of Al Walajeh

- Meet with representatives of the Parents' Circle / Bereaved Families Forum
- Jericho, possible visit to Jesus' baptism site, Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls site, float in the Dead Sea
- Wadi Qelt desert overlook, Good Samaritan view of St. George's Monastery and the road from Jerusalem down to Jericho

Hikes in two very different natural environments: a fertile agricultural valley and a Bedouin camp in the desert

- Bus into the desert to visit a Bedouin camp, hike in the desert (or rest and watch the camels), share a meal, and enjoy a performance by a Bedouin poet/musician
- With Usama, enjoy an optional three-kilometer hike through a beautiful valley from Al Walajeh to Battir (a UNESCO heritage site, with Roman-era terraces still sharing water from a local spring)
- Those who choose not to hike will have a free half-day in Bethlehem, with optional activities suggested

Oct 22 Travel from Bethlehem to Ibillin (no home-stay in Zababdeh, unfortunately, due to COVID considerations)

- Meet with Abuna Firas Khoury Diab in Zababdeh; hear his stories of the "Living Stones" of Palestine
- Nablus: Visit the Jacob's Well Church and enjoy a break for Knafeh
- Sebastia: Have lunch at Samaria Restaurant and visit the ancient Roman and biblical archeological sites
- Burqin: Visit the Church of the Ten Lepers
- Cross from the West Bank into Israel

Oct 22-25: Stay 2 nights in Ibillin at the Guesthouse at the Mar Elias Schools In Ibillin:

- Visit Mar Elias High School and Mariam Bawardi grade school English classes and Learning Center
- Interact with students on campus – enjoy their excitement and welcome
- Meet with key MEEI leaders: Abuna Elias Chacour, Emil Haloun, Elias Abu Ghanima, English teachers, Guesthouse hosts
- Tour campus including Church of the Sermon on the Mount and the Auditorium with its Reconciliation Mural

Biram and the Sea of Galilee Holy Sites:

- Visit Abuna Chacour's home village of Biram with a native of the village
- Tabgha – Church of the Loaves and Fishes, Primacy of Peter (also at Tabgha), Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes
- Boat ride on Sea of Galilee (in small boats, reminiscent of first century fishing boats)

Nazareth Areas:

- Visit and have lunch at the Liwan Cultural Café in Old City of Nazareth
- In Nazareth, visit Al Tufula Center for Women and Children, and leader, Nabila Espanioly
- Visit Sisters of Nazareth Convent and excavations of first century home and church
- Visit Annunciation Churches (Greek Orthodox and Latin Catholic Basilica)

Oct 25-26: Depart 10/25 for home from Tel Aviv, late night flight TLV-JFK; 1/26, arrive at home airport in the US.

Tour Features and Considerations

Note: This is an active trip that requires walking on uneven surfaces including steps and hills, at times for a mile or two and for 1-2 hours at a time. Concerned about stamina or abilities? Please consult with one of the tour leaders.

PROGRAM FEE OF \$2,300/person includes accommodations in comfortable hotel/guesthouse settings based on double occupancy; breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily except 4 lunches; group transfers between airports and hotels; travel in a comfortable tour bus; sightseeing and entrance fees; tips and taxes; and honoraria to organizations and speakers.

PAYMENT: Deposit of \$500, payable to Meeting Peacemakers, is due with registration to secure your spot in the group. Balance of \$1800 (plus single supplement if not sharing a double room) is due by September 1, 2022. (Credit card + 3%.)

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST: Cost of airfare, * luggage handling at airport and guest houses, single room supplement of \$400, 4 lunches, comprehensive travel/health insurance, beverages with meals, passport fees, excess baggage, items of a personal nature. If participants choose land-only registration, fee does not include airport transfers other than with the group.

COVID VACCINATION NOTE: All participants must provide proof of being fully vaccinated (including available boosters). Given travel uncertainties under COVID, we also require individual purchase of comprehensive travel/health insurance. *(If COVID tests are still required in October to re-enter the USA, the cost of a rapid test in Israel will also be the participant's responsibility.)*

TO GUARANTEE A SPOT IN THE GROUP, register by August 1, 2022. To offer this group cost, we request deposit and final payment by check. If paying by credit card, registration fee is \$515 and the balance due will be \$1854. Check with Joan Deming for information on credit card payment. *NOTE:* The per person tour costs are based on shared occupancy, land costs and currency valuations as of winter 2022, a minimum group size of 16 and are subject to availability and change.

***FLIGHT RESERVATIONS:** Call our travel agent, Joy Harris, to make your airline reservations as part of the Meeting Peacemakers group. We will travel on a Delta Airlines group ticket from Seattle (or your nearest large departure airport) to Tel Aviv.

Joy Harris, Direct Travel, Lynnwood, WA, 800.622.3342, 425.775.1595 or email jharris@dt.com.

If making your own travel arrangements, we prefer that you still use our travel agent so all arrivals/departures can be coordinated. She will help you plan so that you arrive in Tel Aviv on Oct 13 before 6:00pm, and plan your flight home to leave Tel Aviv just before midnight on Oct 25 or in the wee hours of Oct 26. (Leaving later will require spending a night in the airport or paying extra for private hotel & transportation.)

Travel payment by credit card or check will be made directly to our travel agent: Joy Harris.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE: Proof of Insurance covering health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is required. Joy Harris can provide a reference for purchasing insurance through Allianz, or check with Joan for other options.

PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS: U.S. citizens need a passport valid at least six months after their date of return to the US. Allow at least 4 months to receive your passport. Get applications at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>. **You will receive your visa at passport control in Tel Aviv.** You do not need to apply for it in advance. No vaccinations are required. Non-U.S. citizens are responsible for knowing their own passport and visa requirements; without proper documents entry can be denied at tour member's expense. **Provide a photocopy of your passport to the tour leader before by September 1, 2022.**

REFUND POLICY: If cancellation is received in writing before Sept 1, 2022, a \$200 fee will be deducted from your refund (plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments). For cancellations received in writing on Sept 1, 2022 or later, a \$500 cancellation fee will be deducted from your refund, due to contracts in place for tour features, commitments to other tour members, and the services rendered on behalf of all tour members. Airline tickets are issued at the time you make your reservation and are nonrefundable. **Insurance refunds must be sought from the insurance provider.**

RESPONSIBILITY: Neither Meeting Peacemakers LLC nor its employees or agents, nor any other person, party, or entity associated with it shall be liable for any injuries, damages, accidents, expenses, delays, schedule or itinerary changes, damage to person or property, or any other loss or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any transportation, accommodation, meals, tours, or other services that relate to the travel program or are referred to herein, or that occur during free time the members may have on the tour. Meeting Peacemakers LLC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make changes in the itinerary whenever changes are warranted or deemed appropriate and withdraw participation of any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the group. In the ever-changing world situation, Meeting Peacemakers LLC recommends personal monitoring of news about Israel/Palestine. For the latest country information and travel warning from the US Dept. of State, visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/travel>.

Note: By signing my registration application, I affirm that I have been advised and am aware of the U.S. State Department Travel Warning to Israel and the West Bank.

Registration Form

“Meeting Peacemakers” Pilgrimage ~ Oct 13-26, 2022

Sponsored by Meeting Peacemakers LLC ~ <https://www.meetingpeacemakers.com>

Led by Rev. Joan Deming, Rev. Charlie Lewis, and Usama Nicola

608-235-1046 ~ joan@meetingpeacemakers.com

To be assured of your place in this tour, please print and complete this form, and mail along with your registration deposit to: 4021 Colfax Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

(OR: [click here](#) for an online to register and pay online)

Registrations due by August 1, 2022. After August 1, check with tour leader.

One participant per form, please:

Name (exactly as it appears on passport): _____
Preferred Name for Nametag (first & last): _____
Mailing Address: _____
Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____
Email: _____
Passport # _____ Passport Expiration Date: _____ _____ <i>Check here if you are applying for or renewing your passport and don't have it yet.</i>
Birth Date: _____ (Month/day/year)

I plan to share a double room with: (Name) _____

_____ I would like assistance finding a roommate. (An attempt to find a roommate will be made. However, it cannot be guaranteed and the single supplement would apply if none is found.)

_____ I am requesting a single room (\$400 supplement due Sept 1, 2022 along with balance of program fee.)

_____ My check for \$500 per person, made out to Meeting Peacemakers, is enclosed. Please note on the check the name(s) of the pilgrimage participant(s) covered by the payment.

_____ I will pay my registration fee by credit card through the online payment portal:
<https://www.meetingpeacemakers.com/online-registration-form/>

I have read the Notes and Conditions for this tour and agree to the terms listed therein.

Signature: _____ Date _____