

St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
Highlands Ranch, CO

The Rev. Janet Forbes

The Holy Land, The Holy People

11-Day Contemporary Studies Program including Israel, the West Bank

1-11 October 2024, 4-Day *Wonders of Jordan* elective returning on 15 October 2024

Syllabus

### Objectives:

- To provide an overview of the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the Bible
- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy and lay people
- To become acquainted with the key issues in biblical studies and the study of Christian origins
- To become familiar with the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land and the role of the church today
- To gain understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking
- To explore issues in Interfaith Dialogue

Texts: (Each person enrolled will automatically receive *The Word of God and the World of the Bible* in advance of the program. Ordinands and those receiving Continuing Education credit should read at least one of the books from the reading list. All participants would find reading one of the following books to be beneficial.)

- 1) Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- 2) Borg, Marcus J. *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. New York, NY: Harper San Francisco, 1994.
- 3) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984.
- 4) Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 5) Finnegan, Jack. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles*. New York: Routledge, 2016.
- 6) Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Real Jesus*. New York, NY: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
- 7) Kimball, Charles. *Striving Together*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991.
- 8) Magnes, Jodi. *The Archaeology of the Holy Land: From the Destruction of Solomon's Temple to the Muslim Conquest*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- 9) Miano, Peter J. *The Word of God and the World of the Bible: An Introduction to the Cultural Backgrounds of the New Testament*. London: Melisende, 2001.
- 10) Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- 11) Oz, Amos. *Israel, Palestine and Peace*, New York, NY: Vintage, 1994.
- 12) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

### Itinerary:

- Day 1  
1.10, Tu Depart USA
- Day 2  
2.10, W Arrive Tel Aviv, overnight in Taybeh/Jericho
- Day 3  
3.10, Th Theme: Beginnings—Birth, Baptism, Backgrounds  
Field trip: 1st Century House/House of the Parables (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1:26-38), Qasr al Yehud/Jordan River (Mk. 1:1-12; Mt. 3: 1-4:17; Lk. 3: 1-22; 4: 1-13; Jn. 1: 1-42), Wadi Qelt, overview of St. George's Monastery (Mt. 4: 1-11), Tel es Sultan—time permitting (Joshua 5-7, Judges 1: 27- 36)  
PM forum: TBA  
overnight in Taybeh/Jericho
- Day 4  
4.10, F Theme: Samaria & Lower Galilee  
AM Forum: Beit El (Israeli settlement), meeting with Hagi Ben Artzi  
Field Trip: Nablus/Shechem, Jacob's Well (John 4: 46-54), 2:00 PM Mishmar ha Emek, Lydia Aisenberg—Israeli journalist, (1 Kings 21)  
overnight in Galilee
- Day 5  
5.10, Sa Theme: Jesus Ministry and Resurrection Around the Sea of Galilee  
AM forum: Models of Christian Mission in the Holy Land  
Field trip: boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tabgha, (John 21), Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4- 6, John 21)  
PM forum: TBA  
overnight in Galilee
- Day 6  
6.10, Su Theme: Jesus' Ministry in Lower Galilee  
Field trip: Nazareth, Basilica of the Annunciation. (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26- 38, 4:16- 30), Sisters of Nazareth (koch tombs), Caesarea Maritima (Acts 10)  
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 7  
7.10, M Theme: Jerusalem & its Environs at the Time of Jesus  
Field trip: Mt. of Olives, Orientation to Jerusalem, Church Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane, Church of All Nations, Israel Museum, Shrine of the book, 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple Model, Tent of Nations  
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 8  
8.10, Tu Theme: Bethlehem & its Environs at the Time of Jesus  
Field trip: Old City of Bethlehem walking tour, Church of the Nativity (Lk 2; Mt 2), Milk Grotto, Herodian, Palestinian refugee camp visit  
overnight in Bethlehem
- Day 9  
9.10, W Theme: Jerusalem—Then & Now  
Field trip: Old City walking tour, Western Wall, Temple Mount/Harem esh Sharif with Islamic Trust (if possible), Lithostratos, Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Mt.

27-28; John 20)  
PM forum: TBA  
overnight in Bethlehem

Day 10            Theme: The Judean Wilderness  
10.10, Th        Field trip: Masada, The Dead Sea, Ein Gedi (1 Samuel), Qumran  
overnight in Amman or Bethlehem

Day 11            Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport, departure and return to USA  
11.10, F

**Electives: 4 Days, The Wonders of Petra (\$1,526 based on a group of 10)**

Day 11            Theme: The Way of the Patriarchs & Matriarchs  
11.10, F         Field trip: Hebron, the Tombs of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, The Negev,  
Bedouin Villages (time permitting and subject to confirmation), Avdat, Makhtesh  
Ramon, Araba crossing into Jordan  
Overnight Aqaba

Day 12            Theme: Desert Exploration  
12.10, Sa        Field trip: Wadi Rum (jeep safari), Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement), Siq al Barid  
(Little Petra)  
Overnight in Wadi Musa/Petra

Day 13            Theme: Exploration and Wonder  
13.10, Su        Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra  
Overnight in Wadi Musa/Petra

Day 14            Theme: The King's Highway  
14.10, M        Field trip: drive along the Wadi Araba, view Kerak castle, Madaba, Mt. Nebo  
Overnight Amman

Day 15            Transfer to Queen Alia Airport and return to USA  
15.10, Tu

<p>* Worship will be arranged in Nazareth and/or in Jerusalem with indigenous Christians. * Meetings with indigenous people are subject to change. Appropriate substitutions will be made in the event a speaker is unavailable. * Daily itinerary is subject to local circumstances, including opening and closing times of sites, airline schedules, weather conditions, etc.</p>
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