

The Holy Land, the Holy People
 Bishop Hee Soo Jung, Ohio Episcopal Area The United Methodist Church
 10 Day Biblical Survey with Contemporary Studies Program in Israel and Palestine
 6—15 April 2026
 4-Day elective *The Wonders of Jordan: Petra, Wadi Rum* returning 19 April 2026
 OR
 4-Day elective *The Tent of Nations* returning 19 April 2026
 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 deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking

Texts: (All participants would find reading one or more of the following books to be beneficial.)

- 1) Ateek, Naim. *Justice and Only Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- 2) Chacour, Elias. *Blood Brothers*. Tarrytown, NY: Chosen books, 1984.
- 3) Cline, Eric H., *Biblical Archaeology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- 4) Finnegan, Jack. *The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles*. New York: Routledge, 2016.
- 5) 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.
- 6) Mitchell, George J. and Sachar, Alon. *A Path to Peace: a Brief History of Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations and a Way Forward in the Middle East*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2016.
- 7) Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- 8) Rousseau, John J. and Arav, Rami. *Jesus and His World*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995.

Day 1 Depart USA
 6.4, M

Day 2 Arrive Tel Aviv, transfer to hotel, orientation and introductions
 7.4, Tu Overnight Taybeh

- Day 3
8.4, W Theme: Beginnings—Birth & Baptism
Field trip: Jericho, Tel es Sultan, view Ein es Sultan (Joshua 5-7, Judges 1: 27-36), Baptismal site—Qasr al Yehud (Mk. 1:1-12; Mt. 3: 1-4:17; Lk. 3: 1-22; 4: 1-13; Jn. 1: 1-42, (Matt 2: 23, Luke 1: 26- 38
PM Forum: TBD
Overnight Taybeh
- Day 4
9.4, Th Theme: Samaria & Lower Galilee
Field trip: Nablus/Shechem: Jacob's Well (John 4: 46-54), Jezreel Valley (1 Kings 21), Kibbutz Mishmar ha Emek—meeting with journalist/activist Lydia Aisenberg Megiddo (Rev.16:16), Time permitting—Nazareth (Lk. 4: 16-30)
Overnight Galilee
- Day 5
10.4, F Theme: Jesus' Ministry Around the Sea of Galilee
Field trip: Wadi Hammam, 10:00 AM boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tabgha, Church of St. Peter's Primacy (John 21), Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves (Mk. 6:30-44), Mt. of the Beatitudes (Luke 13: 10-21, Matt 5- 7, 11: 20- 24, Mark 4- 6, John 21)
PM forum: TBD
Overnight Galilee
- Day 6
11.4, Sa Theme: The Coastal Plain, Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Time permitting—Sepphoris, Caesarea Maritima (Acts 10; Acts 24), Mt. of Olives overview and orientation to Jerusalem, Dominus Flevit, Garden of Gethsemane
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 7
12.4, Su Theme: Bethlehem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: Bethlehem, Old City walking tour, Church of the Nativity (Lk 2; Mt 2), Herodion, Shepherd's Fields, Israel Museum, Shrine of the Book, 2nd Temple Model
PM forum: TBD
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 8
13.4, M Theme: Jerusalem and its Environs at the Time of Jesus
Field trip: 8:30 AM Harem esh Sharif/ Temple Mount, Old city walking tour including the Western Wall, St. Ann's Church, Via Dolorosa, Lithostratos, Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Mt. 27-28; John 20), 3:00 PM Tent of Nations
Overnight Bethlehem
- Day 9
14.4, Tu Theme: The Judean Wilderness
Wadi Qelt overview, Masada, Qumran, The Dead Sea, Overnight Bethlehem

Day 10 Return to USA
15.4, W

4 Day Elective: The Wonders of Petra & Jordan, \$1,465 based on 10 enrolled

Day 10 Theme: The Negev and Wadi Araba
15.4, W Field trip: Hebron (Gen 13, 23), Cave of Macphelah/Ibrahimi Mosque, The
 Negev, Ein Avdat, Maktesh Ramon, Araba crossing into Jordan,
 Dinner on your own
 Overnight Aqaba.

Day 11 Theme: Desert Exploration
16.4, Th Field trip: Wadi Rum jeep safari (optional), Al Beidha (Neolithic settlement), Siq
 al Barid (Little Petra), Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 12 Theme: Exploration and Wonder
17.4, F Field trip: Full day exploration of Petra, Overnight Wadi Musa

Day 13 Theme: The Desert Highway & the King's Highway
18.4, Sa Field trip: Shoback Castle (overview), Madaba, Mt. Nebo, Overnight Bethlehem

Day 14 Return to USA
19.4, Su

4 Day Elective: Solidarity and Advocacy *The Tent of Nations*, \$1,229 (or \$893—on site lodging)

Day 10-13 transfer to Tent of Nations, lodging on site or in hotel
15-18.4 volunteer work
W—Sa

Day 14 Return to the USA
19.4, Su

- Worship will be arranged in Nazareth and/or in Jerusalem with indigenous Christians.
- Meetings indicated in the itinerary are illustrative only and subject to change until confirmed. Meetings with indigenous people are always subject to change due to local circumstances. Appropriate substitutions will be made in the event a speaker is unavailable.
- Daily itinerary is subject to local conditions, including weather, opening and closing hours, holidays, flight schedules, etc. Unavoidable modifications may be made due to local circumstances or to optimize the itinerary and these changes are not any basis for cancellation.
- Morning and evening fora on various topics will be arranged throughout the program