

# MEETING PEACEMAKERS PILGRIMAGE

October 13-26, 2026

Jordan Extension Oct 26-28

Plymouth Congregational Church,  
Minneapolis, MN

## Israel/Palestine Study Tour

Cost \$2,500/person program fee, double occupancy  
single supplement, \$400

(Jordan extension \$775 per person  
+\$100 single supplement)

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

Fee does NOT include cost of airfare, travel insurance,  
beverages with meals, some lunches, personal items.

**Leaders: Rev. Joan Deming and Usama Nicola**

Questions? Call or email Joan:

608-235-1046 ~ [jdeming7@gmail.com](mailto:jdeming7@gmail.com)

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

Info on Meeting Peacemakers LLC  
and past pilgrimages:

<https://www.meetingpeacemakers.com>



Usama Nicola, right, is our Bethlehem-based Tour Planner &  
Daoud Nassar, left, will host us at Tent of Nations.



*Olive Harvest on the Tent of Nations Farm near Bethlehem*

### Preliminary Travel Information:

**Air Travel reservations must be made through our travel agency (Fellowship Travel),** with travel from MSP Airport to Amman, Jordan and return. We aim to reserve tickets so the group can fly together. Likely cost between \$1600 and \$2000 per person.

U.S. citizens must get an entry permit ([ETA-IL](#)) prior to entering Israel. Visas to enter Jordan will also be required. (You'll receive help with entry permits and visas.) Your passport *must* be valid for at least six months beyond the date of planned departure from Israel at tour's end.

**After you register for the trip, we will provide information for you** to call or email our travel agent to make your airline reservations.

*Important: Participants are expected to be vaccinated against Covid. Flu shots are also highly recommended.*

### 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 16 listening/study tours to Israel/Palestine together with Usama Nicola from Bethlehem. She is a retired UM pastor who also served as executive director of Pilgrims of Ibillin from 2013-2018.

Maximum group size will be 16. (Minimum 10)

**Itinerary will include a variety of experiences including many (*but not all*) of the following:**

**Oct 13 Leave MSP, arrive Oct 14 in AMM (Amman, Jordan) Overnight in Madaba, Jordan**

**Oct 15 bus to King Hussein/Allenby Bridge crossing into Israel/Palestine; bus to Bethlehem**

**Key Visits and Experiences in the Bethlehem area:**

- Visit and meet leaders of Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center, located in Bethlehem next to the Separation Wall, Rachel's Tomb, and Aida Refugee Camp
- Walk through Aida Refugee Camp and visit Al Rowwad Community Center and the Seraj Library
- Visit the Bethlehem University Center for Sustainability and Biodiversity including natural history museum
- Visit the Cremisan winery; observe nearby expansion of settlements and Wall
- Walk along the Separation Wall with its graffiti art and visit the Museum at the Walled Off Hotel
- Worship on Sunday morning with the congregation of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem
- Visit Dar Al Kalima University for Arts and Culture and its Founder/President, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb
- Take a cooking class at Dar Al Kalima's Culinary Arts School, enjoy the meal we have made
- Visit the Nativity Church and Shepherds' Field in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour
- With Usama, take a walking tour of the Old City of Bethlehem

**Key Visits and Experiences in the Jerusalem and Ramallah areas:**

- Walk the Palm Sunday Walk down the Mount of Olives, Dominus Flevit Church, ending at Church of All Nations and the Garden of Gethsemane
- Visit/tour St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem; meet with Bishop Hosam Naoum or other leader at the Cathedral
- Attend briefing by United Nations OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories)
- In the Old City of Jerusalem, get a guided tour of Al Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock; then walk the Via Dolorosa and visit the Western Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Visit the Ramallah offices of Defense for Children International-Palestine
- Possible meeting with Sam Bahour, Palestinian Businessman and/or Rev. Munther Isaac, Lutheran pastor

**Hebron and the area South of Bethlehem:**

- Visit Hebron: Ibrahim Mosque/Synagogue and souk, walk Shuhada Street, visit glass-blowing factory; visit a Palestinian community in the South Hebron Hills, site of "No Other Land" documentary
- 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. Participate with other volunteers in the olive harvest!

**Other Visits:**

- Meet with representatives of the Parents' Circle / Bereaved Families Forum
- Bus to Jericho, visit to Jesus' baptism site, Hisham's Palace, see the Mount of Temptations
- With Usama, enjoy an optional hike through a beautiful valley from Beit Jala 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
- OR 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.

**Prior to dinner each day we'll spend time as a group sharing/reflecting on our responses to our days' experiences.**

**Oct 25: Return to Jordan to prepare for Oct 26 flight home -- or begin Jordan Extension.** Separate information will follow for 3 extra days in Jordan which will a tour including a drive through Little Petra, a full day in Petra, another at Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea, and seeing the historic mosaics in Madaba before flying home to MSP.

## Tour Features and Considerations

**Note:** *This is an active trip that requires walking on some uneven surfaces including steps and hills, at times for a mile or so. Resting points will be built in, but some stamina is needed.*

**PROGRAM FEE** OF \$2,500/person includes accommodations in comfortable hotel/guesthouse settings based on double occupancy; breakfast and dinner daily (also some lunches); group transfers between airports and hotels; travel in a comfortable tour bus; sightseeing and entrance fees; tips and taxes; and honoraria to organizations we visit and speakers we meet with.

**PAYMENT:** Deposit of \$500, payable to Meeting Peacemakers due with registration to secure your spot in the tour. Balance of \$2000 (plus single supplement if applicable) is due by September 13, 2026. Payment is requested by check to Meeting Peacemakers.

**NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST:** Cost of airfare, travel insurance, luggage handling at airport and guest houses, single room supplement of \$400, some lunches, beverages with meals, visas and fees for entering and exiting Israel, excess baggage, Jordan extension fees, items of a personal nature.

**\*FLIGHT RESERVATIONS:** Airline prices are likely to be between \$1600 and \$2000 per person. Individual tickets will be available soon. **After flight options are set, you will receive a request to contact our Travel Agent to make your reservation.** Please do plan to travel with the group if possible. Timely group travel will depend on being together.

**VACCINATION NOTE:** Vaccination against Covid is recommended (including available boosters). Flu shots are also highly recommended.

**PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS:** Since January 1, 2025, U.S. citizens must get **ETA-IL approval** (<https://israel-entry.piba.gov.il>). Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond the date of planned departure from Israel. If you need a new or renewed passport, allow at least 2 months to receive your passport. Get applications at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

You will need entry visas for two entries to Jordan. Joan will provide help to be sure all participants have double-entry visas before we arrive in Amman.

**Please provide a photocopy of your passport photo page to Joan Deming before by September 1, 2026.**

**REFUND POLICY:** If cancellation is received in writing before October 1, 2026, a \$200 fee will be deducted from your program fee refund (plus unrecoverable deposits or air and land service payments). Airline tickets are non-refundable after your credit card is charged for your reservation. Travel insurance is recommended!

**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 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.*