

## Holy Land Trip | Bishop Wallace Padgett

Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church <timjones.holston@brtapp.com>

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Dear Friends,

My husband Lee and I were in our early forties when first offered the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land. Our bishop at the time, Robert C. Morgan, extended the invitation to all of the persons he had ordained during his eight years as the episcopal leader in Kentucky. Though Lee's and my lives were crazy busy between our respective ministries and young family, we said yes to journeying to Jesus' homeland.

We expected this trip would change how we read Scripture, taught and preached. But we did not imagine it would change our lives.

Yet this is exactly what happened as we walked in the land where Jesus walked . . . saw places he frequented . . . rode in a boat on the Sea of Galilee . . . and peered into what may have been the very tomb where the disciples took Jesus' body after his crucifixion. This was more than a continuing education event, trip abroad or cross-cultural experience. It was a pilgrimage to the country where Jesus lived his life on this earth.

Since then, Lee and I have taken 5 additional journeys to Israel. Each trip has resulted with us growing deeper in our faith and walks with Christ.

Our next Holy Land pilgrimage will be June 28 - July 7, 2022 and is open to clergy and laity in the Holston and North Alabama Conferences. We will be traveling with Educational Opportunities, an organization that has taken United Methodist groups on such journeys for many years now!

Note that the cost for clergy who have not previously been to the Holy Land is greatly reduced thanks to generous scholarships from Educational Opportunities and the Holston Conference Board of Ministry. See logistical details at [Educational Opportunities Tours / Tours · Holy Land Journey with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church and Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett 2022 \(travelwithus.com\)](#).

Also, two optional extensions are available: 1) Wonders of Petra and the Dead Sea which will include stops at Jerash, Petra, Madaba, Mt. Nebo and the Dead Sea and 2) Oberammergau Passion Play which will start in Munich, continue to Salzburg and conclude in Innsbruck, Austria. The highlight for this extension will be The Passion Play presented by the people in the village of Oberammergau, Germany.

If interested in participating in our pilgrimage to Israel, you are invited to sign up at the above link. Also, if you have questions, feel free to contact Conference Secretary and Director of Clergy Services, Rev. Terry Goodman at [Terrygoodman@holston.org](mailto:Terrygoodman@holston.org) or 865-690-4080.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to participate in the 2022 spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Holston and North Alabama Conferences. It very well may change your life.

It is a joy to serve as your bishop.

Blessings,

Debra Wallace-Padgett  
Resident Bishop  
Holston and North Alabama Conferences



Holston Communications, 217 S Rankin Rd, Alcoa, TN 37701 | 865-690-4080

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