



## “Open Bethlehem:” Film Viewing & Special Guest

**Tuesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Room**

As promised, we will again show the film, “Open Bethlehem,” and are praying the weather will cooperate better than it did in February. But even if you came in February, please come again because we will have a special guest: a young man who grew up in Gaza, Amer Shurrab. Amer will briefly share his story, including the circumstances surrounding the death of his brother as well as his attempts to return to Gaza to visit his family..

After our Pilgrims went to the Holy Land in 2015, many who were not able to go have asked to learn more about what is happening to the Christians and places in the Holy Land. The members of St. Matthew’s who have seen the film, including June Blanc, Pierce Klemmt, believe it gives a pretty clear picture of the struggles our fellow Christians and other Palestinians face.

“Open Bethlehem,” is a documentary of one woman’s homecoming to the world’s most famous town. The face of Bethlehem and other important Christian areas of the Holy Land are changing rapidly, with potentially detrimental consequences. Reports predict that if trends continue, the Christian community of Bethlehem—a city that provides a model for a multi-faith Middle East—may be unsustainable within one generation.

A short Q&A will follow the 90-minute film, and dessert and Turkish coffee—as well as adult refreshments—will be served. The event is free and open to all members of St. Matthew’s, nearby Episcopal congregations, and your friends.

Lorraine Reeder