



# OPCEMI News

Newsletter of the Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:8-10

Dear sisters, dear brothers, how can we live in grace? Here is the question of our faith: How do we dwell in the grace of God in Christ Jesus in our time?

We know very well -- this is the foundation of our faith -- that salvation is a gift of God's love that came to us through Jesus, who gave his life so that we may find life, a fully renewed life. This is the good news, this is God's care, this is the Gospel that gives hope. So now the question is, How do we live in grace? In what ways are our personal lives and the lives of our church genuinely renewed by God's grace, and how is such renewal manifested on a daily basis? It is about living out a covenant of grace and love that God has willed with his sons and daughters in Christ, it is about sanctification, it is about joy, optimism, and hope that should concretely have to take place in us rather than pessimism and sadness, which are sometimes so overwhelming that they overshadow the joy of faith.

The Apostle says: you are saved by grace, this is the gift of God, you are his workmanship to do good. Now our reflection is about the very imperative aspect of faith: we are saved by grace and now do good. We cannot eclipse this second part of the Gospel message, we cannot overshadow it behind the alibi of our imperfections or inabilities,

[Click here to view the ongoing renovation work in the OPCEMI's real estate.](#)



## METHODIST CONSULTATION

It will take place in person at the Centro Ecumene, Velletri (RM) on **May 19-21, 2023**, commencing on Friday evening with a dinner and concluding with a lunch on Sunday.

## SESSION SCHEDULE CP OPCEMI

November 5-6, 2022 | Rome  
**2023**  
 January 15-16 | Rome  
 March 18-19 | Rome  
 April 30-May 1 | Rome  
 May 19 | Velletri, Rome  
 June 2-3 | Rome  
 August 25 | Torre Pellice

## Prayer

You, O Lord, have called us to watch and pray. Therefore, whatever may be the sin against which we pray, make us careful to watch against it, and so have reason to expect that our prayers will be answered. In order to perform this duty aright, grant us grace to preserve a sober, equal temper, and sincerity to pray for your assistance. Amen.

**Susanna Wesley**  
*ENGLAND, 18TH CENT., ALT.*

we must go back to learning the joy of grace, the power of God's calling that wants us not to be perfect on our own but to be perfect in Christ. We are called to witness to the evidence of faith, we are called to bring, in today's dark reality, that light in which we say we believe through the ability to build communion, to spread enthusiasm and positivity, to bear witness to the optimism of grace that knows how to make new and seemingly impossible things happen.

It is possible to be possible! It is possible to love one's enemy, it is possible to be salt and light of the earth, it is possible to set to work for justice and peace, this is also possible for us, despite our every crisis and despite the difficulties of this time. We can never make grace in vain, for it is effective only by the will of God, nor can we ever make God's covenant in Christ ineffective, but neither can we live as perplexed, fearful, sad or resigned believers, we must take up our personal and community life, we must surrender it to the power of the Holy Spirit, we must be willing to change, to be lost so as to be found. Behold, the believer's joy lies in a heart strangely warmed by grace, a ready mind and a willing spirit. This is what we can be by the constant action of God who in Christ Jesus calls us sons and daughters.

Amen

Rev. Luca Anziani  
President of the OPCEMI

The 8th CIRCUIT of Methodist and Waldensian Churches has organised in the ecclesiastical year 2022-2023 the

### 2ND CYCLE OF WEBINARS ON METHODISM

The meetings will be held online on  
**ZOOM platform**

To register, please send an email to:  
[ottavocircuito@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:ottavocircuito@chiesavaldese.org)

## Notice

For official communications to OPCEMI addressed to the President, Rev. Luca Anziani, please use exclusively the e-mail address: **presidente.opcemi@chiesavaldese.org** and/or his office mobile phone: **+39 347 121 4092**



## NEWS FROM OUR LOCAL METHODIST CHURCHES

We would like to dedicate part of our newsletter to our local churches, so if you would like to publish some important news about the life/activities/events/initiatives of your church in our next edition, please contact us: [metodismo@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:metodismo@chiesavaldese.org)  
The article must be concise, edited and publication-ready.



### Ministry Fund

Dear sisters and brothers,

Not everything always goes wrong, and this year, at least in terms of contributions, we have noted an improvement in contributions compared to the same period last year (30th September).

In fact, we received € 267,604 in 2022 against € 247,406 in 2021. In every district, our churches have shown an increase over the previous year, and this gives us hope that at the end of the year we will be able to significantly increase our contributions after the decreases of the past few years (also due to COVID). For this we thank the Churches who are making such efforts, despite the period we are going through which poses many doubts and uncertainties about the future.

Contributions are crucial to the budget and have been falling far short of the required targets in recent years. In addition to this is the fact that we have recently had substantial real estate work on some buildings used by churches and works that are demanding significant financial resources. In addition, 2022 sees the full resumption of church activities, which entails an increase in certain costs such as those for pastors' travel, synods, commissions, etc. The 2022 budget showed a deficit of €75,000, which the OPCEMI is trying to reduce, but we need the churches, sisters and brothers to help us in this by committing themselves to reach the goals.

May the Lord help us and enable us to do His will.

## FROM ABROAD

### Fund for Mission in Europe (FMIE) Projects

We inform you that the Fund Mission in Europe of the European Methodist Council has granted us a grant for a Project concerning the purchase and minor repairs of musical instruments for the Methodist churches.

The grant is not much and the OPCEMI Standing Committee has asked for the collaboration of Maestro José Antonio Flores Montano, in charge of the Methodist Music Ministry Enabler Project, to evaluate the requests that will be sent in, even through visits to the local churches, believing that his experience and professionalism can be of help to the communities in choosing the best and most suitable instrument for the needs of the local church.

Naturally, we hope that Maestro Montano's visit will also be useful to you in providing new ideas to improve and/or revitalise the musical elements of your worships, Sunday school and other activities.

You can send your requests to the OPCEMI secretariat's office at the e-mail address [metodismo@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:metodismo@chiesavaldese.org) and, for information, also to Maestro Montano's e-mail address:

[animazionemusicaemetodista@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:animazionemusicaemetodista@chiesavaldese.org)

### Centro Ecumene

#### from October 17 Closed for Renovation

The landline telephone will not be available during this period.

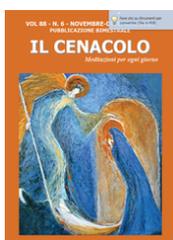
To contact Ecumene:  
[ecumene.velletri@gmail.com](mailto:ecumene.velletri@gmail.com)  
Tel. +39 333 410 4171

**Other approved projects:**  
Student Pastors and Lay Preachers Leadership Training

# FCEI General Assembly

We remind you that the General Assembly of the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy (FCEI) in Italy will be held in Rome and Ciampino-Sassone from the **29th October to the 1st November 2022**. The **motto** chosen is: **"Sentinel, at what point is the night ...? (Isaiah 21:11)** While the overall **theme** will be: **'What do we see, what do we say? Freedom and democracy; globalisation and peace; work and environment'**.

The opening service and the following public event will be held on Saturday 29th November 2022 from 2.30 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Rome Via XX Settembre, at the corner of Via Firenze 38.



## "Il Cenacolo" Digital Subscription

In the past few months, it is possible to subscribe digitally to our bimonthly "Il Cenacolo", the Italian edition of **The Upper Room** for € 10.00 for the 6 annual issues. For 5 or more copies at the same address, you can get a 20% discount.

**Payments can be made:**  
**Postal account n. 26128009**  
**registered to: "Il Cenacolo"**  
**Via Firenze, 38 - 00184 Roma.**

**For bank transfers / IBAN Code:**  
**IT80Z0760103200000026128009**  
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## OPCEMI Calendar

Once again this year OPCEMI is preparing the 2023 OPCEMI Desk Calendar on the theme of the **Music Ministry Enabler Project in the Methodist churches in Italy**.

The calendar is available to all who request it, upon a € 3.00 expense reimbursement which covers printing and domestic shipping costs.

**To order your copy:**  
**[metodismo@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:metodismo@chiesavaldese.org)**

## Church Registers

At our offices in Rome a number of old Church Registers relating to worship (n. 5), funerals (n. 19), church members (n. 5), the ministry fund (n. 2), Sunday school (n. 12), catechumens (n. 9) are available.

If you wish to receive them, we will send them to you upon a free donation and reimbursement of postage costs.

**For further information: [metodismo@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:metodismo@chiesavaldese.org)**