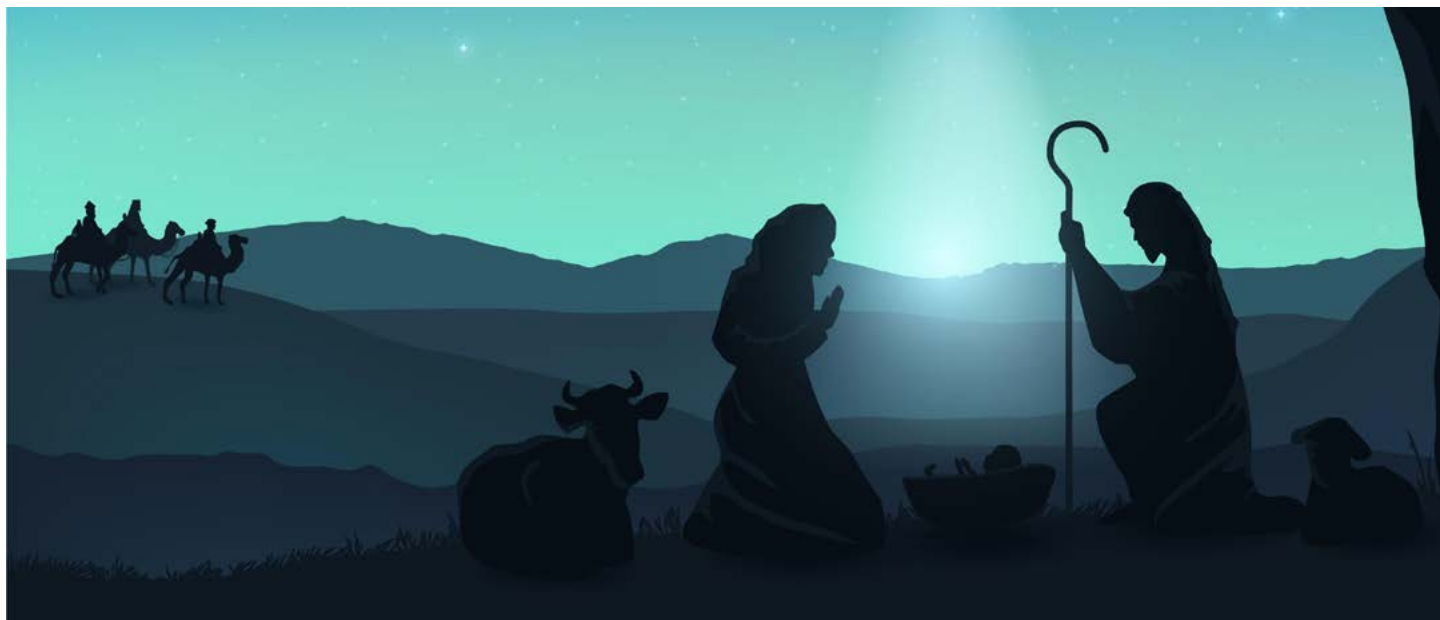




OPCEMI *news*

- NEWSLETTER FROM THE OPERA PER LE CHIESE EVANGELICHE METODISTE IN ITALIA -



Matthew 11:2-10

The presence of Jesus has always given rise to questions in the gospels. Who is he? Is he the messiah we have been waiting for? Who gives him all this authority? So many questions! Yet Jesus should be the answer: God's answer to humanity's need for justice, for mercy, the certainty of the presence of God's blessing, the light that shines in the darkness. Instead, Jesus is the source of questions, the reason for openness to the new that comes into the world and into one's life in a disruptive way. So, for this Christmas, let us make our own the question

of the Baptist who asked Jesus if he is really the one they were waiting for. Is Jesus the saviour we have been waiting for? Is our image of God confirmed by the coming of Jesus, or is Jesus something totally different?

Jesus represents a break from the 'normal' faith of his time, on the one hand he confirms ancient prophecies, on the other hand he is a great surprise. And where do we stand? Do we still know how to be interrupted by the presence of Jesus? He does not come to confirm our faith, our needs, he comes to interrupt us and set us on a new and unexpected path. To venture before the cradle of the nativity first, and to the cross

afterwards, is to accept that we are caught up in God's plan that overturns all our plans, all our pretensions and superiority.

Jesus reveals himself in our boundaries, in the interruptions of normal life, along paths we had not planned, he is the light that illuminates our darkest areas and gives us a new life of peace and hope. May God still call us, still interrupt our normality and surprise us, fill our lives with wonder because he is truly the one we have been waiting for. Amen.

Rev. Luca Anziani
President of OPCEMI

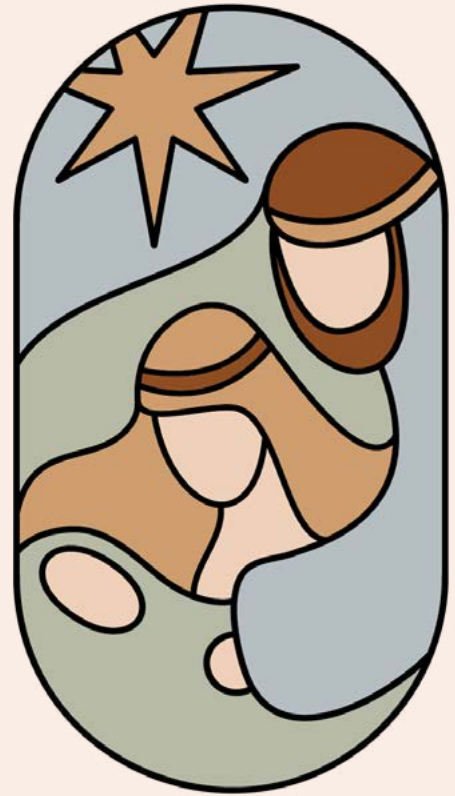


Prayer

Oh Immanuel, God with us. Truly this advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in the blur and mystery of our lives. In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as light of the candle, as a card from our friend. They are signs of your presence. We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us. Let

something wonderful begin in us – something surprising and holy. May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us. Let your longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Immanuel with us once again. Amen.

*Rev. Jerry Chism
(United Methodist Church, USA)*



Il Cenacolo

Due to the upcoming Christmas holidays, we foresee a possible delay in the delivery of the booklets. In the meantime, if you would like to receive a digital copy of issue 1/2024, please write to:

cenacolo@chiesavaldese.org

We would like to inform you that for the year 2024, 2 types of subscription are available for the 6 annual issues: print (€17.00) and digital (€10.00). From the year 2024 we will gradually decrease the number of printed copies, and from the year 2025 we will switch to digital subscription only. For more information:

cenacolo@chiesavaldese.org



From FDEI



**Federazione donne
evangeliche in Italia (fdei)**

The Federation of Evangelical Women in Italy (FDEI) would like to invite the sisters of the federated women's organisations and in general the sisters of the evangelical churches in Italy to the North-Central Zone Conference on women and work issues to be held in Rome on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th February 2024, at the premises of the Methodist Church in Via XX Settembre. Registration must be received **no later than 15/01/2024**.

For information on costs, registration, accommodation and other matters, write to: fdei@fcei.it

OPCEMI calendar 2024



OPCEMI desk calendars on the theme of **Social Actions** are now available at our offices. The calendar is available to all who request it, upon a €3.50 expense reimbursement which covers printing and domestic shipping cost.

To order your copy:

metodismo@chiesavaldese.org

METHODIST CONSULTATION

Will take place in persona at the Centro Ecumene, Velletri (RM) from **24th-26th May 2024**, commencing on Friday evening with a dinner and concluding with a lunch on Sunday. We would like to remind you that the ministers and officeholders are covered by OPCEMI, while the delegates of the local churches are covered by the latter.



CONTRIBUTION FROM FMiE



We received an additional small contribution from the Mission in Europe Fund of the European Methodist Council for the acquisition and/or small maintenance of musical instruments. Those who want to benefit from this contribution have to write to the OPCEMI secretariat at the email:

metodismo@chiesavaldese.org

WE INFORM THAT OPCEMI EMPLOYEES WILL WORK IN SMART WORKING FROM 27 DECEMBER 2023 TO 5 JANUARY 2024. FROM 8 JANUARY 2024 THE USUAL SCHEDULE WILL BE RESUMED: MONDAY AND FRIDAY IN SMART WORKING AND TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY IN OFFICE PRESENCE.





LIBRI CDM

Centro di Documentazione Metodista
(Methodist Archives)

Also available at our offices are the publications in Italian of the conferences organised in the past years by the CDM, published by Carocci editore, a minimum contribution of € 8,00 each:

- 2013: Il metodismo nell'Italia contemporanea
- 2014: Metodismo globale
- 2015: Il protestantesimo nello spazio pubblico
- 2016: Ecumenismo e cattolicità delle chiese
- 2017: Antiche e nuove missioni
- 2018: I metodisti nello spazio pubblico
- 2019: La frontiera cattolica
- 2022: Il metodismo via media della Riforma

A new volume entitled "Methodists in Italy" is soon to be published by Claudiana srl.

Those who would like to receive it may contact the OPCEMI secretariat who will arrange the shipment.

Tel.: 06 4743695

Email: metodismo@chiesavaldese.org

CONTRIBUTIONS

Dear sisters and brothers,

as you well know, among the many commitments that affect the management of our church there is also that of covering the costs of our church activities, and to achieve this we need your fundamental help, which manifests itself in the sending of contributions.

We have lived through the pandemic years that have reduced the financial resources of the churches, and we know that many of them are in increasing straits, but none the less we know that all of you do and will do your utmost. Despite this, however, we note that as of 30 November (and in the months leading up to it) there has been a reduction, albeit minimal, in what has been received compared to the same date last year, but we are confident that this is only a temporary situation and that, at the end of the year, we can reach and exceed what was sent in 2022. However, we note that, to date, churches are far from the targets set (minus 260,000 euro in November).

Knowing that many churches receive and send most of their contributions towards the end of the year, we urge you to make the greatest possible effort to reach the set targets, in the certainty that the Lord will also help us in this further service to which, as believers and church members, we are called and to which we have committed ourselves.

**The President,
the Standing Committee
and the employees
of OPCEMI
wish everyone
a Merry Christmas
and a New Year
full of blessings.**

