



# OPCEMI News

Newsletter of the Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia

CHRISTMAS | VOL. 4/22



*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

Luke 1:78-79

The dawn from on high will visit us. This is not a taken-for-granted word we receive from God, it is a promise that leaves no way out, it is a sentence of freedom, love and hope that overturns every obviousness. The Christmas gospel is often turned into a romantic comforting tale, here the gospel becomes a 'family-oriented' message, it looks like a winter painting where a serene family is sitting on a sofa in front of the fireplace in a house decorated for Christmas while the snow is falling heavily outside and it is cold. Instead, even these Gospel stories contain within themselves the disruptive power of the whole Gospel. Holding on to this familiar image, we might say that the gospel is not that warm room and atmosphere sweetened by good food. The Gospel is behind the window, beyond the glass, in the cold of the night snow, it is there that the word of the Gospel is found, which comes to make all things new starting from what is not quite so reassuring: a young woman at risk of being stoned to death for adultery, a fragile infant born in an unsuitable place and without a home amongst the lowliest people on earth, a family forced to flee to a foreign land as they were being persecuted by the ruler of the time, the proclamation of peace is brought, therefore, on a night where everyone has no place except in front of Jesus.

The gospel is in the night, the light shines in the darkness, the promise is uttered while the dawn is yet to come, the resurrection must pass through the cross.

[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.

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.

## SESSION SC CP OPCEMI

The meeting planned for April/May has been rescheduled for **22/23 April 2023** and it will be held in Rome.

## Prayer

As lights are present in this  
holiday season,  
Let there be a light  
within our hearts,  
As we turn on lights  
to our trees,  
And to our homes,  
We express hope for the  
light of Christ to be more  
and more evident  
in our world.  
May the light of Jesus  
presence  
Shine in our forgiveness  
towards others.  
May it shine in our  
expressions of justice  
and equality to all.  
May the light shine  
in the care we provide  
for each person.  
Let there be light,  
In our cities,  
In our families,  
And in our souls.  
God, thank you for  
providing the light that  
dispels the darkness.

Rev. Ryan Dunn  
United Methodist Church

In this the dawn from on high will visit us, announcing God's mercy. We live the time of the night in which our gaze shifts away from the here and now of darkness to look a little further for the glimmer of a new light, of an un hoped-for dawn, which promises the new day and the end of darkness. This is the work of God's mercy promised to Zechariah, foretold with the Baptist and then again promised to Mary and brought to fulfilment in Jesus Christ. Our Christmas is then a listening and a commitment. Let us listen again to the promise of light and peace that comes to us from the gospel, let us listen with wonder at how the night does not suddenly fade away as a new dawn rises, a glimmer, a rustle of hope that will eventually overcome the world of darkness, a midst to our frightened words we hear a word of hope and salvation. Thus we commit ourselves to be witnesses of light, we do not simply remain to observe a crib of sweetness, but rather we welcome the way that the Lord sets before us, a way that runs through darkness and yet is illuminated by the light of God's new dawn for us. Let us hear the gospel of grace and commit ourselves to give our lives in the proclamation and witness of salvation that light has inaugurated in this world.

Amen

Rev. Luca Anziani  
President of the OPCEMI

## 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**

## Church Registers

At our offices in Rome a number of old Church Registers relating to worship (n. 1), 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)**





## 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.

### Methodist Church of Parma-Mezzani

**NATALE 2022**  
La Chiesa Metodista di Parma-Mezzani è lieta di invitarvi all'evento

**"La gioia del Natale nello strano caso di un inno metodista del XVIII secolo"**

Pianoforte: Guido Giampaolo  
Voce cantante: Joy Refugio  
Voci narranti: Carlotta Pinardi - Chiara Agostini  
Commento: pastore Nicola Tedoldi

Con la partecipazione straordinaria dei bambini della Scuola Domenicale

**SABATO 17 DICEMBRE ORE 17.00**  
presso i locali della Chiesa Metodista  
Borgo G. Tommasini 26/A  
**PARMA**  
(al termine dell'evento gusteremo una fetta di panettone insieme)

### Methodist and Waldensian Church of Palermo Noce

In addition to the midweek and Sunday activities - Bible Study, Community Preacher Training, Women's Group, Choir, Sunday School - in part also shared or jointly with the Waldensian Church in Via dello Spezio, TWO important new initiatives are happening on the more properly DIACONAL front:

- **"Civilian Support and Advice Centre"**
- **"What about your health? Listening and Sharing Centre"**

These two diaconal activities are, of course, not 'reserved' for church members, but - although they arose from the identification of specific needs within the community - they are open to anyone who comes along. All are welcome!

[Learn more](#)



The Evangelical Methodist Church in **Gorizia** is preparing for the important appointment in 2025 where the Slovenian and Italian cities of 'Nova Gorica- Gorizia 2025' will be European Capitals of Culture.

[Learn more](#)

The Methodist Church in **Milan**, as part of the 'Open Space' project, started again to organise ethnic cooking courses open to the local community in its hall.

[Learn more](#)



Vi invitiamo alla presentazione dell'ultimo libro di

**PETER CIACCIO**  
Pastore della Chiesa Evangelica Metodista Valdese di Trieste e laureato presso la Facoltà Valdese di Teologia di Roma

**"eVangelo, iGod & Personal Jesus"**  
*Districarsi tra social, tecnologia e liquidità*

Oltre all'autore, intervverrà la  
**Prof.ssa Agnese MICCOLI**  
docente, con Baccalaureato in Teologia alla Facoltà Teologica del Triveneto

**Venerdì 16 dicembre 2022 alle ore 17.30**  
presso  
**Mediateca GO "Ugo Casiraghi"**  
Via G. Bombi, 7  
Gorizia



*All We Can have launched an emergency appeal in response to the severe droughts unfolding in East Africa.*

Over 36 million people in the Horn of Africa (including Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) are currently experiencing persistent and severe drought conditions, which, in tandem with other stressors, are causing a humanitarian situation.

In September this year, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, stated that "Famine will happen in Somalia and we fear that it won't be the only place either".

Forecasts predict a below-average fifth consecutive rainy season from October to December this year in parts of these countries.

The causes are multiple, with the current drought compounding the issue: In Somalia, flooding, locust infestation, displacements and persistent conflict all contribute to the current food insecurity concerns.

Communities across the region face the increased threat of famine in 2023.

All We Can, in conjunction with our humanitarian partners in East Africa, have launched an emergency appeal to respond to this crisis.

[\*Click here to donate\*](#)



## Christmas gifts ideas



### 2023 OPCEMI Calendar

OPCEMI desk calendars on the theme of the **Music Ministry Enabler Project in the Methodist churches in Italy** are now available at our offices.

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)



### 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 1/2023, please write to

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

We would like to inform you that for the year 2023, 2 types of subscription are available for the 6 annual issues: printed (€ 17.00) and digital (€ 10.00)

For more information:  
[cenacolo@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:cenacolo@chiesavaldese.org)



## Centro di Documentazione Metodista (Methodist Archives)

Also available at our offices are the publications in Italian of the conferences organised in past years by the CDM, published by Carocci editore, with 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

Those who would like to have them can contact  
the OPCEMI secretariat, who will arrange the shipping.  
Email: [metodismo@chiesavaldese.org](mailto:metodismo@chiesavaldese.org)



## Ministry Fund

During 2022, the churches fully resumed their church activities, which had dropped in part during the pandemic, and this also had a beneficial effect on the contributions sent to the OPCEMI to support these activities. In fact, at the end of November, we noted a slight increase in contributions compared to the same period last year. For this encouraging sign, the CP OPCEMI is grateful to the Lord, the churches and all the brothers and sisters who work to collect contributions. But we must point out that we are still below the contributions we received in the pre-pandemic period, and above all we are far from the figure required for 2022 (minus EUR 188,000). This in a year that sees an increase in the costs we have to meet for our activities (pastor trips, transfers, commissions, Assembly/Synod, ETC) due to the restart of activities in presence. It is therefore necessary for churches to make every effort to try to meet their targets so that they can sustain their activities as best they can and prevent having to close the budget with another deficit.

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth."*

John 1:14

*We wish you a Christmas full of love, serenity and peace, and  
may this New Year bring you and your family much joy!*



**OPCEMI**  
Circolare dell'Opera per le Chiese Evangeliche Metodiste in Italia

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