

Pastor's Update, Saturday, May 8, 2021

Happy Saturday WFMC Family!

[Link to Morning Worship Live-stream \(becomes live at 8:20a\)](#)

**Morning Worship:** We continue with our "normal for now" Sunday schedule, with in-person worship gatherings at 8:30a and 11:00a, and Sunday school, and Youth and Adult Bible Fellowships at 9:45a. Inside the buildings on the church campus, please wear masks when you're within six feet of others and while singing. Changes are coming, however, on June 6. Check last week's Pastor's Update for details.

**At-Home Worshippers** will find a copy of the worship folder and songs attached / below as usual.

**Congratulations to the Following Persons** elected as officers at the WFMC Society meeting last Sunday:

Board of Administration: Katie Diddle, Jenny Madill and D Simpson (three year term)

Trustees: Dave Coulliette and Kevin Ezell (three year term)

Nominating Team: Todd Padgett and Paul Stackhouse (three year term)

Delegates: Keith Madill, Adam Schell (three year term)

Reserve Delegates: Erin McLaughlin, Ben Riffell (one year term)

Pastor's Cabinet: Joy Ireland, Diane Munoz (one year term)

These folk join the existing teams for the indicated terms. The most current Team and Officers listing is attached / below and is also available at the Welcome Center.

**Welcome, Also, to Glenn McGlothlin**, our new Plumline editor.

**A Piece of Financial Good News** is that, as of May 5, our building debt was reduced to just under \$400,000.00. With the Lord's help, we paid over \$167,000.00 toward our debt in the year 2020, the lion's share being principal. Overall, we are doing well financially; giving is not quite at budget, but neither are our operational expenses, due mostly to Covid.

**We Welcome Caitlin Gothay** (along with her husband, Christian, and their three children – Ashanti, Van and Maxwell) as our new Minister of Youth. As announced at last Sunday's Society meeting, Caitlin is a graduate of both Asbury University and Asbury Seminary, and both Caitlin and Christian volunteered with our Youth Ministry while attending school in Wilmore. For the past three years, they have been house parents / family teachers at Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. They will arrive in Wilmore in mid-June and will begin at WFMC on July 1.

**The Article I Referenced in the Society Meeting**, which a few of you asked about, is attached / below.

**WFMC Enthusiastically Supports Lexington's Assurance Care For Women**, an organization that works hard to offer prospective moms an alternative to abortion for unexpected pregnancy. Their annual fund-raising drive, Baby Bottle Blessings, is now going on. Pick up your bottle in the foyer this Sunday! [Click here for a helpful video from Assurance.](#)

**Newsletters Now Available Electronically:**

[Latest Light and Life Weekly Magazine](#)

[Latest Financial Newsletter from the Free Methodist Foundation](#)

[Latest Free Methodist Pastors' and Leaders' Newsletter](#)

**And Finally, In The Interest Of Keeping Our Senses of Humor,  
Here are Some (what I think are funny) Sayings in Honor of Mother's Day:**

"Silence is golden. Unless you have kids, then silence is just suspicious" ~ Unknown

"Sometimes I open my mouth and my mother comes out." ~ Unknown

"It just occurred to me that most of my diet is made up of the foods that my kid didn't finish..." ~ Carrie Underwood

"If evolution really works, how come Mothers only have two hands?" ~ Milton Berle

"The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found." ~ Calvin Trillin

"If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way Mom told you to in the beginning." ~ Unknown

"Motherhood: the days are long, but the years are short." ~ Gretchen Rubin

"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it." ~ Buddy Hackett

"A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after." ~ Peter De Vries

Daughter: "Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?"

Mom: "I don't know honey, you'll have to ask Grandma."

Peace and Blessings, Sisters and Brothers,

Pastor Daryl

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS—WEEK OF MAY 9, 2021

TODAY

- 8:00a Pre- Service Prayer—B106  
8:30a **Morning Worship I**—Sanctuary & B200-B201 Overflow  
*Nursery—Building B Preschool Wing*  
9:40a **Children’s Sunday School, Youth and Adult Bible Fellowships**  
**Adult Elective:** Prayer Boost — B107  
*Nursery—Building B Preschool Wing*  
11:00a **Morning Worship II**—Sanctuary & B200-B201 Overflow  
*Nursery—Building B Preschool Wing children under 4 years*

MONDAY

- 10:00a Ladies’ Bible Study via Zoom;  
*(contact Peggy Welch for Zoom link / 859-338-4378)*

TUESDAY

- 6:30a Men’s Prayer Meeting—A200  
8:00a Ladies’ Prayer Meeting—A200  
7:00p Men’s Bible Study  
7:00p Men’s Basketball

WEDNESDAY

- 4:50p Bible Quizzing—B100s  
7:00p Senior Recognition Service—Sanctuary  
Reception following in Building C  
*Nursery: Building B Preschool Wing (up through age 4). Parents, please pick up your children at conclusion of service, before the reception.*

THURSDAY

- 12:00n TOPS—A200  
4:00p Youth Open Gym

FRIDAY

- 8:00a Youth Prayer Breakfast—Building C  
9a-12:30p HS/MS Virtual Café  
10a-noon Moms Pray & Play—Church playground

SATURDAY

- 8:00-5:00 Hope For the Journey—Building B (registration required)

IN THESE STRANGE DAYS, we are worshipping in different ways—like not using offering plates or communion elements. We’re not greeting one another with hugs or hand-shakes, and we’re wearing masks when less than 6 feet from others indoors and while singing. Due to virus spread, most of our vocal music ministries groups are on hold. All this, like so many other parts of life, is very different, and the need for it is passing quickly, but until then, thank you for loving one another in these ways.

Meeting the Risen Jesus: Go Where He Sends

Pastor Daryl

*Matthew 28:1-10*



RECORDINGS OF ALL MESSAGES ARE AVAILABLE.

Note “Message” and date on a Communication Card at the Welcome Center, and pick up your CD the following Sunday. Messages (audio, video and print) may also be downloaded at [wilmorefmc.org](http://wilmorefmc.org).



**PRAYER SEEKING SALVATION:** *Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned against You. I believe that You died for me, and I place my trust in You. Forgive my sins and save me from the judgment to come. Help me to turn from my sin and live a life wholly devoted to You.*

**PRAYER SEEKING SANCTIFICATION:** *Lord Jesus, I recognize my need for holiness. Purify me of all that is unlike You, fill me with Your Holy Spirit until I am totally Yours, and set me apart for Your purposes from this day forward.*

If you seek or have found salvation or sanctification today, please let a member of the pastoral staff know. We’re here to help you on your journey.

WILMORE  
FREE METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 9, 2021  
MOTHER’S DAY

OFFICE@WFMC.NET

WWW.WILMOREFMC.ORG

859.858.3521



Welcome to worship at WFMC!  
Here are some helpful notes if you are new.  
THE COMMUNICATION CARD is key to allowing us to welcome you fully. Please fill it out and drop it in the gold box after worship. We won't harass you, but we'd love to send a welcoming note.

THE WORSHIP GUIDE in this folder leads through our service. We try to use elements, liturgy, music and sacraments from a variety of Christian traditions to help lead people of all ages, stages, and tastes into God's presence. Worship is participatory, so please join in prayer, word, giving, and song.

NURSERY for children up to 2 years is available all morning in the Pre-school Complex, Building B. Please note nursery at the 11:00a service includes children under 4 years old.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP JR. (CWJR, age 2 and 3) is presently available during the 8:30a worship service in the Pre-school Complex, Building B.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (CW, age 4 through grade 3) is available in the 8:30a service only. After the Children's Time, children are escorted by CW Staff to A106. Following 8:30 worship, parents of children ages 4 through Kindergarten must pick up their children from Room A106. Children in grades 1-3 will be taken to their Sunday School classroom.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the foyer.

WHEELCHAIR SEATING is readily available in the center aisle or an usher will be glad to remove a sanctuary chair for your convenience.

PRAYER FOCUS: Today let's pray for moms, and for those who've played the role of mom in another's life. Pray that they'd have the energy and wisdom necessary for godly motherhood in our day.

WORLD MISSION FOCUS: BRAZIL - Pray for Dan & Hope Owsley, who serve at the Free Methodist Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Hope is also involved in women's ministries.

HOME MISSION FOCUS: Pray for Natalie's Sisters ministry, that the women they minister to will make healthy relationships and come to know the love of Jesus.

**YOUTH MINISTRY FOCUS:**

This Wednesday youth group will be in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. — honoring our high school senior graduates! Come celebrate with our seniors, and join in the reception following in the gym.

**NURSERY:**

	TODAY/THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
8:30 Worship	C Blankenship/M Ezell/O Proctor	J Evans/D Flanigan/M Woki
Sunday School	A Diddle/T Kidwell	C Blankenship/D Roxberry
11:00Worship	M Brennan/B Diddle/E Maynard	N Elwood/E Walsh/S Walsh
Wed. Evening	A Allen/R Thompson	K Winter/R Zent



**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION**  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 7:00 p.m.

Our high school seniors will be honored during the service, including their slide show, tributes, and prayer of dedication.

This is a great opportunity for the church family to support, encourage, and pray for our students in general, and especially our seniors. Following the service, join us for a social in the Building C Great Hall to personally encourage and congratulate our seniors.

• DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST—*Our family is so blessed to have experienced the love of Jesus through your offers of help, your sharing of meals, your visits, and your attendance at the funeral. Thank you for being the family of God to us. God is good all the time, and His timing is always perfect. Numbers 6:24-26.*

*-with sincere appreciation, the Bickert Family*

• WFMC BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS: Our goal was 22 and we received 26 donations of whole blood this past Wednesday. Thank you church!

**HONORING THE CAMP NELSON NATIONAL MONUMENT!**

Be sure to stop by the foyer display case to see and read about the history, traditions, and some very special stories about Camp Nelson (located just a few miles from Wilmore). There are some unique facts about Camp Nelson you won't want to miss, and you will come away appreciating even more the significance of this special place. Our heartfelt thanks to Teresa Cassidy for putting together this excellent tribute!



**WFMC SOCIETY MEETING RESULTS**  
NEWLY ELECTED WFMC OFFICERS - Class of 2024

- ◆ *Board of Administration (BOA)*  
Katie Diddle, Jenny Madill, D Simpson
- ◆ *Delegates*  
Keith Madill, Adam Schell  
(Reserve - Erin McLaughlin, Ben Riffell )
- ◆ *Nominating Team*  
Todd Padgett, Paul Stackhouse
- ◆ *Pastors Cabinet*  
Joy Ireland, Diane Munoz
- ◆ *Trustees*  
David Coulliette, Kevin Ezell

You can pick up a complete Team Leader / Officer list at the Welcome Center and keep all our church leaders in your prayers.



THE FAMILIES OF REID GOUGE, NATHAN RIFFELL AND JOHN SCHUMACHER invite you to a "Come & Go" (or stay!) graduation party on Saturday, May 22 from 3:30- 6:30 p.m. in the backyard of the Gouge home: 422 Akers Drive, Wilmore.

ADULT NURSERY HELPERS NEEDED! We are in immediate need for "once a month" adult volunteers in our nursery - particularly for our 8:30 service. If you are an adult and would like to be part of the nursery team, please contact Carol Blankenship at [cblankenship@wfmc.net](mailto:cblankenship@wfmc.net), or 859-401-2048.



*Assurance*  
**Baby Bottle BLESSINGS**




Be a blessing to women and girls and their babies by picking up a bottle from the stack of crates next to the Welcome Center, filling it with spare change, and returning it on Father's Day, June 20.

Participating online is also an easy option!  
Visit: [Babybottleblessings.org](http://Babybottleblessings.org).

Baby Bottle Blessings is sponsored by Assurance Care.

**VBS JUNE 7—GOD'S CREATION**

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP for our one-day VBS! The kids' registration cards (K-5th grade) are at the Welcome Center and at the "Fishin' Hole" under the world map. Please turn in registration cards in the fishing bucket. Space is limited!




- ★ Family Camp June 17-20
- ★ Teen Camp June 21-27
- ★ Kids Camp June 28-July 2

Registrations will be available soon!

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Kathy Burdette &amp; Donna Butler

## Prayer for Mothers

Katie & Abbie Diddle; Rose & Lydia Evans;  
Hannah, Ariel & Allie Miller; Cheryl Schell

God bless the mother who sings to her child,  
peaceful and calm, her words soft and mild.  
God bless the mother awake in the night,  
rocking her child 'til morning light.

Gather all mothers in tender embrace.  
Grant them your courage, your wisdom and grace.  
Honor their place in your sacred design,  
of healing the world one child at a time.

God bless the mother forgiving and wise,  
sharing God's grace through the light in her eyes.  
God bless the mother oppressed by her fears,  
carried by faith 'til hope reappears.

## MESSAGE

Meeting the Risen Jesus: Go Where He Sends

Pastor Daryl

## POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign (Hymnal 231)

arr. Lani Smith

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

In this strange, "touchless" season, we are giving our finances in worship through either the gold boxes in the foyer, by mail, or digitally through Engage via this QR code.



God is so glad you've set aside this time to worship Him. He inhabits the praise of His people. As we gather, please take a moment to ask God to prepare us for worship—to open our ears and minds to His voice and to freely apply His word to our hearts and lives. Please also take a moment now to silence all electronic devices so that the Lord might have opportunity to freely speak to all.

## GATHERING

Now the Green Blade Rises

arr. David Cherwien

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

arr. Anna Laura Page

Who'll Be a Witness for My Lord?

Spiritual, arr. William Farley Smith

## SONGS OF OBEDIENTLY FOLLOWING CHRIST'S CALL

Hymnal 76

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Hymnal 444

I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go

Insert

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

(Please wear a mask if you choose to sing)

## CALL TO PRAYER

Hymnal 586

Jesus, Stand Among Us

Jesus, stand among us in Thy risen power;  
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit, into every heart;  
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

(CCLI Member)

## PRAYER

Pastor Daryl

## GOD'S WORD TO US

Matthew 28:1-10

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

## CHILDREN'S TIME:

Pastor Dwight

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP JR. (CWJR) for children ages 2 and 3, is available in the Building B Preschool Wing for the entire 8:30 worship service time. For the 11:00 service nursery/childcare is available for children up to age 4 in the Pre-school Complex, Building B.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (CW- currently 8:30 service only) After Children's Time, children age 4 through grade 3 will be dismissed (please wear masks) and escorted by CW staff to Room A106. Following 8:30 worship, parents of children ages 4 through Kindergarten must pick up their children from Room A106. Children in grades 1-3 will be taken to their Sunday School classroom.

# 76 O for a Thousand Tongues

*My tongue will speak . . . of Your praises all day long. Ps. 35:28*



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing My great Re - deem - er's praise,
2. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease,
3. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, He sets the pris - oner free;
4. Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, Your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;
5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,



The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace.  
 'Tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.  
 His blood can make the foul - est clean; His blood a - vailed for me.  
 Ye blind, be - hold your Sav - ior come; And leap, ye lame, for joy.  
 To spread thro' all the earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name. A - men.



*Optional last stanza setting  
ritard*



joy. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro -



claim, To spread thro' all the earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name.

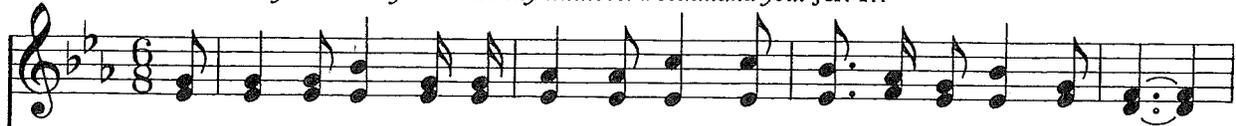


TEXT: Charles Wesley  
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläzer; arranged by Lowell Mason;  
 Choral ending by Robert F. Douglas  
 A lower setting may be found at No. 440

AZMON  
C.M.

# 444 I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go

*Go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Jer. 1:7*



1. It may not be on the mountain's height Or o - ver the storm - y sea,
2. Per - haps to - day there are lov - ing words Which Je - sus would have me speak,
3. There's sure - ly somewhere a low - ly place In earth's har - vest fields so wide,



It may not be at the bat - tle's front My Lord will have need of ' me;  
There may be now, in the paths of sin, Some wand' rer whom I should seek;  
Where I may la - bor thru life's short day For Je - sus the Cru - ci - fied;



But if by a still, small voice He calls To paths I do not know,  
O Sav - ior, if Thou wilt be my Guide, Tho dark and rug - ged the way,  
So, trust - ing my all un - to Thy care - I know Thou lov - est me -



I'll an - swer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine, I'll go where You want me to go.  
My voice shall ech - o the mes - sage sweet, I'll say what You want me to say.  
I'll do Thy will with a heart sin - cere, I'll be what You want me to be.



## Refrain



I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord, O'er mountain or plain or sea;





# Holy Spirit

Words and Music by  
Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

## VERSE

E♭ E♭maj<sup>7</sup>/G A♭ B♭ A♭/C B♭/D E♭ E♭/G B♭ E♭/G

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, liv - ing Breath of God, breathe new  
2. Ho - ly Spir - it, come a - bide with - in, may Your  
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, from cre - a - tion's birth, giv - ing

3 A♭ B♭ A♭/C B♭/D E♭ A♭/E♭ B♭/E♭ E♭ E♭maj<sup>7</sup>/G A♭ B♭ A♭/C B♭/D

life in - to my will - ing soul. Let the pres - ence of the  
joy be seen in all I do. Love e - nough to cov - er  
life to all that God has made, show Your pow - er once a -

6 E♭ E♭/G B♭ E♭/G A♭ B♭ A♭/C B♭/D E♭

ris - en Lord come re - new my heart and make me whole.  
ev - 'ry sin, in each thought and deed and at - ti - tude.  
-gain on earth, cause Your church to hun - ger for Your ways.

9      A $\flat$    B $\flat$    Cm   E $\flat$ /G      A $\flat$    E $\flat$ /G   B $\flat$       Cm   B $\flat$ /D   E $\flat$       E $\flat$ /G

Cause Your word to come a - live in me;      Give me faith for what I  
 Kind - ness to the great - est and the least,      gen - tle - ness that sows the  
 Let the fra - grance of our pray'rs a - rise;      Lead us on the road of

12      Fm      E $\flat$       B $\flat$       Cm   E $\flat$ maj<sup>7</sup>/G   A $\flat$    B $\flat$    A $\flat$ /C   B $\flat$ /D

can - not see,      give me pas - sion for Your  
 path of peace.      Turn my striv - ings in - to  
 sac - ri - fice,      that in u - ni - ty the

14      E $\flat$    E $\flat$ /G   B $\flat$    E $\flat$ /G      A $\flat$    B $\flat$    A $\flat$ /C   B $\flat$ /D      E $\flat$

pu - ri - ty; Ho - ly Spir - it breathe new life in me.  
 works of grace; Breath of God show Christ in all I do.  
 face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

## THE SATURDAY ESSAY

# How a More Resilient America Beat a Midcentury Pandemic

In 1957, the U.S. rose to the challenge of the ‘Asian flu’ with stoicism and a high tolerance for risk, offering a stark contrast with today’s approach to Covid-19.

*By Niall Ferguson*

Updated April 30, 2021 4:40 pm ET



**Listen to this article**

15 minutes

“Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,/But to be young was very heaven!” Wordsworth was talking about France in 1789, but the line applies better to the America of 1957. That summer, Elvis Presley topped the charts with “(Let Me Be Your) Teddy Bear.” But we tend to forget that 1957 also saw the outbreak of one of the biggest pandemics of the modern era. Not coincidentally, another hit of that year was “Rockin’ Pneumonia and the Boogie Woogie Flu” by Huey “Piano” Smith & the Clowns.

When seeking historical analogies for Covid-19, commentators have referred more often to the catastrophic 1918-19 “Spanish influenza” than to the flu pandemic of 1957-58. Yet the later episode deserves to be much better known, not just because the public health threat was a closer match to our own but because American society at the time was better prepared—culturally, institutionally and politically—to deal with it.

The “Asian flu”—as it was then uncontroversial to call a contagious disease that originated in Asia—was a novel strain (H2N2) of influenza A. It was first reported in Hong Kong in April 1957, having originated in mainland China two months before, and—like Covid-19—it swiftly went global.

## **Unlike Covid-19, the Asian flu killed appreciable numbers of young people. The age group that suffered the heaviest losses globally was 15- to 24-year-olds.**

Like Covid-19, the Asian flu led to significant excess mortality. The most recent research concludes that between 700,000 and 1.5 million people worldwide died in the pandemic. A pre-Covid study of the 1957-58 pandemic concluded that if “a virus of similar severity” were to strike in our time, around 2.7 million deaths might be anticipated worldwide. The current Covid-19 death toll is 3 million, about the same percentage of world population as were killed in 1957–58 (0.04%, compared with 1.7% in 1918-19).

True, excess mortality in the U.S.—now around 550,000—has been significantly higher in relative terms in 2020-21 than in 1957-58 (at most 116,000). Unlike Covid-19, however, the Asian flu killed appreciable numbers of young people. In terms of excess mortality relative to baseline expected mortality rates, the age groups that suffered the heaviest losses globally were 15- to 24-year-olds (34% above average mortality rates) followed by 5- to 14-year-olds (27% above average). In total years of life lost in the U.S., adjusted for population, Covid has been roughly 40% worse than the Asian flu.

The Asian flu and Covid-19 are very different diseases, in other words. The Asian flu’s basic reproduction number—the average number of people that one person was likely to infect in a population without any immunity—was around 1.65. For Covid-19, it is likely higher, perhaps 2.5 or 3.0. Superspreader events probably played a bigger role in 2020 than in 1957: Covid has a lower dispersion factor—that is, a minority of carriers do most of the transmission. On the other hand, people had more reason to be afraid of a new strain of influenza in 1957 than of a novel coronavirus in 2020. The disastrous pandemic of 1918 was still within living memory, whereas neither SARS nor MERS had produced pandemics.



High school students in Washington, D.C., September 1957.

PHOTO: EVERETT COLLECTION

The first cases of Asian flu in the U.S. occurred early in June 1957, among the crews of ships berthed at Newport, R.I. Cases also appeared among the 53,000 boys attending the Boy Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, Penn. As Scout troops traveled around the country in July and August, they spread the flu. In July there was a massive outbreak in Tangipahoa Parish, La. By the end of the summer, cases had also appeared in California, Ohio, Kentucky and Utah.

It was the start of the school year that made the Asian flu an epidemic. The Communicable Disease Center, as the CDC was then called, estimated that approximately 45 million people—about 25% of the population—became infected with the new virus in October and November 1957. Younger people experienced the highest infection rates, from school-age children up to adults age 35-40. Adults over 65 accounted for 60% of influenza deaths, an abnormally low share.

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#### SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

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*What do you think the U.S. can learn from its handling of past pandemics? Join the conversation below.*

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Why were young Americans disproportionately vulnerable to the Asian flu? Part of the explanation is that they had not been as exposed as older Americans to earlier strains of influenza. But the scale and incidence of any contagion are functions of both the properties of the pathogen itself and the structure of the social network that it attacks. The year 1957 was in many ways the dawn of the American teenager. The first baby

boomers born after the end of World War II turned 13 the following year. Summer camps, school buses and unprecedented social mingling after school ensured that between September 1957 and March 1958 the proportion of teenagers infected with the virus rose from 5% to 75%.

The policy response of President Dwight Eisenhower could hardly have been more different from the response of 2020. Eisenhower did not declare a state of emergency. There were no state lockdowns and, despite the first wave of teenage illness, no school closures. Sick students simply stayed at home, as they usually did. Work continued more or less uninterrupted.

With workplaces open, the Eisenhower administration saw no need to borrow to the hilt to fund transfers and loans to citizens and businesses. The president asked Congress for a mere \$2.5 million (\$23 million in today's inflation-adjusted terms) to provide additional support to the Public Health Service. There was a recession that year, but it had little if anything to do with the pandemic. The Congressional Budget Office has described the Asian flu as an event that "might not be distinguishable from the normal variation in economic activity."

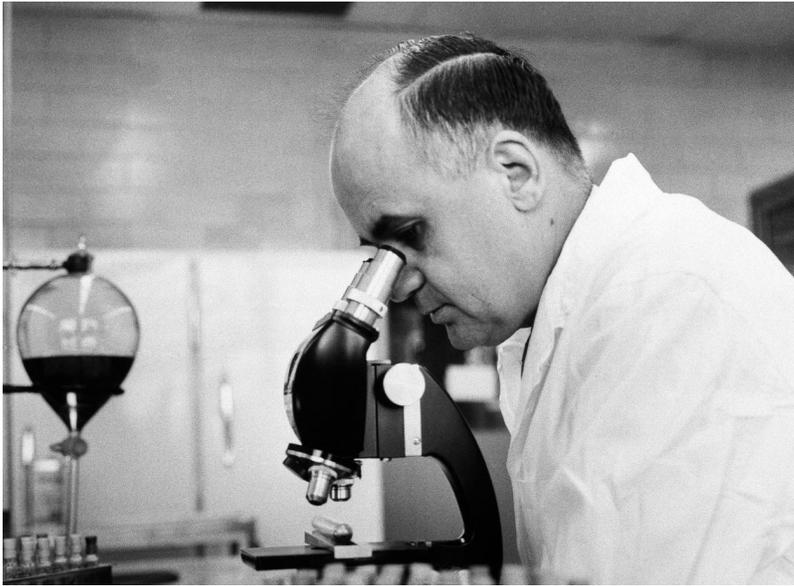
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MORE SATURDAY ESSAYS

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President Eisenhower's decision to keep the country open in 1957-58 was based on expert advice. When the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) concluded in August 1957 that "there is no practical advantage in the closing of schools or the curtailment of public gatherings as it relates to the spread of this disease," Eisenhower listened. As a CDC official later recalled: "Measures were generally not taken to close schools, restrict travel, close borders or recommend wearing masks....ASTHO encouraged home care for uncomplicated influenza cases to reduce the hospital burden and recommended limitations on hospital admissions to the sickest patients....Most were advised simply to stay home, rest and drink plenty of water and fruit juices."



Dr. Maurice Hilleman, seen here in the lab in 1963, played a key role in the development of a vaccine for the Asian flu in 1957.

PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS

This decision meant that the onus shifted entirely to pharmaceutical interventions. As in 2020, there was a race to find a vaccine. Unlike in 2020, however, the U.S. had no real competition, thanks to the acumen of one exceptionally talented and prescient scientist. From 1948 to 1957, Maurice Hilleman—born in Miles City, Mont., in 1919—was chief of the Department of Respiratory Diseases at the Army Medical Center (now the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research).

Early in his career, Hilleman had discovered the genetic changes that occur when the influenza virus mutates, known as “shift and drift.” It was this work that enabled him to recognize, when reading reports in the press of “glassy-eyed children” in Hong Kong, that the outbreak had the potential to become a disastrous pandemic. He and a colleague worked nine 14-hour days to confirm that this was a new and potentially deadly strain of flu.

Speed was of the essence, as in 2020. Hilleman was able to work directly

**It has become commonplace to describe the speed with which vaccines were devised for Covid-19 as unprecedented. But it was not.**

with vaccine manufacturers, bypassing “the bureaucratic red tape,” as he put it. The Public Health Service released the first cultures of the Asian influenza virus to

manufacturers even before Hilleman had finished his analysis. By the late summer, six companies were producing his vaccine.

It has become commonplace to describe the speed with which vaccines were devised for Covid-19 as unprecedented. But it was not. The first New York Times report of the outbreak in Hong Kong—three paragraphs on page 3—was on April 17, 1957. By July 26, little more than three months later, doctors at Fort Ord, Calif., began to inoculate recruits to the military.

Surgeon General Leroy Burney announced on August 15 that the vaccine was to be allocated to states according to population size but distributed by the manufacturers through their customary commercial networks. Approximately 4 million one-milliliter doses were released in August, 9 million in September and 17 million in October.

This amounted to enough vaccine for just 17% of the population, and vaccine efficacy was found to range from 53% to 60%. But the net result of Hilleman's rapid response to the Asian flu was to limit the excess mortality suffered in the U.S.

A striking contrast between 1957 and the present is that Americans today appear to have a much lower tolerance for risk than their grandparents and great-grandparents. As one contemporary recalled, "For those who grew up in the 1930s and 1940s, there was nothing unusual about finding yourself threatened by contagious disease. Mumps, measles, chicken pox and German measles swept through entire schools and towns; I had all four....We took the Asian flu in stride. We said our prayers and took our chances."

D.A. Henderson, who as a young doctor was responsible for establishing the CDC Influenza Surveillance Unit, recalled a similar sangfroid in the medical profession: "From one watching the pandemic from very close range...it was a transiently disturbing event for the population, albeit stressful for schools and health clinics and disruptive to school football schedules."

**Perhaps a society with a stronger fabric of family life, community life and church life was better equipped to withstand the anguish of untimely deaths than a society that has, in so many ways, come apart.**

Compare these stoical attitudes with the strange political bifurcation of reactions we saw last year, with Democrats embracing drastic restrictions on social and economic activity, while many Republicans acted as if the virus was a hoax. Perhaps a society with a stronger fabric of family life, community life and church life was better equipped to withstand the anguish of untimely deaths than a society that has, in so many ways, come apart.

A further contrast between 1957 and 2020 is that the competence of government would appear to have diminished even as its size has expanded. The number of government employees in the U.S., including those in federal, state and local governments, numbered 7.8 million in November 1957 and reached around 22 million in 2020—a nearly threefold increase, compared with a doubling of the population. Federal net outlays were 16.2% of GDP in 1957 versus 20.8% in 2019.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare was just four years old in 1957. The CDC had been established in 1946, with the eradication of malaria as its principal objective. These relatively young institutions appear to have done what little was required of them in 1957, namely to reassure the public that the disastrous pandemic of 1918-19 was not about to be repeated, while helping the private sector to test, manufacture and distribute the vaccine. The contrast with the events of 2020 is once again striking.

It was widely accepted last year that economic lockdowns—including shelter-in-place orders confining people to their homes—were warranted by the magnitude of the threat posed to healthcare systems. But the U.S. hospital system was not overwhelmed in 1957-58 for the simple reason that it had vastly more capacity than today. Hospital beds per thousand people were approaching their all-time high of 9.18 per 1,000 people in 1960, compared with 2.77 in 2016.

In addition, the U.S. working population simply did not have the option to work from home in 1957. In the absence of a telecommunications infrastructure more sophisticated than the telephone (and a quarter of U.S. households still did not have a landline in 1957), the choice was between working at one's workplace or not working at all.

Last year, the combination of insufficient hospital capacity and abundant communications capacity made something both necessary and possible that would have been unthinkable two generations ago: a temporary shutdown of a substantial proportion of economic activity, offset by massive debt-financed government transfers to compensate for the loss of household income. That this approach will have a great many

unintended adverse consequences already seems clear. We are fortunate indeed that the spirit of the vaccine king Maurice Hilleman has lived on at Moderna and Pfizer, because much else of the spirit of 1957 would appear to have vanished.



Despite the pandemic, people thronged the beach and boardwalk at Coney Island in July 1957.

PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS

“To be young was very heaven” in 1957—even with a serious risk of infectious disease (and not just flu; there was also polio and much else). By contrast, to be young in 2020 was—for most American teenagers—rather hellish. Stuck indoors, struggling to concentrate on “distance learning” with irritable parents working from home in the next room, young people experienced at best frustration and at worst mental illness.

We have done a great deal over the past year (not all of it effective) to protect the groups most vulnerable to Covid-19, which has overwhelmingly meant the elderly: 80.4% of U.S. Covid deaths, according to the CDC, have been among people 65 and older, compared with 0.2% among those under 25. But the economic and social costs, in terms of lost education and employment, have been disproportionately shouldered by the young.

The novel that captured the ebullience of the Beat Generation was Jack Kerouac’s “On the Road,” another hit of 1957. It begins, “I had just gotten over a serious illness that I won’t bother to talk about.” Stand by for “Off the Road,” the novel that will sum up the despondency of the Beaten Generation. As we dare to hope that we have gotten over our own pandemic, someone out there must be writing it.

*This essay is adapted from Mr. Ferguson's new book, "Doom: The Politics of Catastrophe," which will be published by Penguin Press on May 4. He is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.*

*Appeared in the May 1, 2021, print edition as '.'*

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## ***The 15th Annual Kentucky Youth Storytelling Competition is coming!***



The **Kentucky Youth Storytelling** competition is a statewide effort to develop, encourage, and highlight the talent of our young storytellers.

### **Who Can Enter**

- Any Kentuckian age 7 – 17 as of the June 1<sup>st</sup> entry deadline

### **How to Compete**

- Entries are accepted April 1<sup>st</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Video entries of a solo storyteller or a tandem team telling a single story are submitted via mailed DVD postmarked on or before June 1st or via electronic link submitted on or before June 1st



### **Winners Receive**

- Invitations to represent the Kentucky Storytelling Association as a Youth Torchbearer at many storytelling events and festivals
- Up to \$100 in reimbursements for travel expenses to the events where you act as a Torchbearer; (that amount is prorated where Tandem team members share the prize)
- A year's free membership in the Kentucky Storytelling Association with all access to member benefits
- Free admission to the 2021 KSA Conference where you can learn from other storytellers and practice your skills



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