TRINITY

INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Another Happy Friday to you All

Well, we may have just enjoyed our Indian summer so, to all you fall loving, pumpkin spice fanatics, you should be very, very happy that your time of the year has arrived. I am just praying the good Ol' Farmer's almanac is way off base for their winter prediction this year.

So, the weather is not the only thing that has been changing over the past two weeks. We have witnessed a history making event in Washington, our former President has been a defendant in court, the markets have been very volatile, and everyone is still trying to predict (understand) what the Fed's next move will be.

I thought that the removal of McCarthy from the House Speaker position would have had more of an impact on the markets. This may be an indication that unless there is more of a majority for either side of the aisle, that Washington may not be driving our economy or the markets as much as people may think that they are.

So, we are left to uncertainty of what the Fed will or won't do as the driving force behind the market volatility.

The US job market added 336,000 jobs in September, much higher than the expected 170,000. I believe this report to be very encouraging as it should eliminate the fear that the US is heading towards a recession, but a report like this could also strike fear into some that the Feds will look at this report as proof that they have not done enough to slow the economy. Thus, more rate hikes may be in the future. Although, the rate of hiring has slowed and people who are currently employed are not leaving their employers in search of greener pastures like they were doing earlier this year. The sectors adding the most jobs were Hospitality & Leisure, Government, and Health & Social services was 3rd. With the other sectors lagging month over month, this could be another indication that the hiring pace is cooling.

I believe that the economy is in a holding pattern and until the Fed comes out with a firm decision as to the direction they are going to take with rates, we will all be left to speculate. With this environment, there cannot be cookie cutter recommendations. Some require current income, some liquidity, while others have 3-5 years or maybe longer before requiring to utilize the assets. For each person's situation there is a unique solution.

During our reviews, we are updating and fine-tuning each person's current and future requirements. This allows one to make the decision to stay the long-term course or to take advantage of the higher interest rates, whether for income or liquidity. I appreciate the many calls that I receive throughout the week in regards to what is the best plan of course to take. Please do not feel that you must wait until our next review before we discuss your portfolio and what is best for you.

Now a PSA for the upcoming Annual Open Enrollment which runs from October 15th through December 7th. We have implemented an email service to verify if one's medications that we have on file are still current. So, if we service your prescription drug plan you can expect this email very soon after October 15th. Trust that it is not spam, but if you have questions, please call the office.

May you have a blessed weekend. Enjoy your pumpkin flavored "whatever" and enjoy the changing of the seasons.

Take care

Brett