



Lumen Financial Group

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Dear Clients,

First of all, I hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy. The experience of the past few months reiterates that nothing is as important as the health and safety of our family and friends.

The S&P 500 is almost at break even for the year after a strong rebound from the lows seen in late March. The tech-heavy Nasdaq has returned to previous highs, and then surpassed them, as many of these companies were able to benefit from people being forced to stay at home and social distance. In spite of the renewed rise in COVID-19 cases nationally, it seems that the market is anticipating a strong recovery, and the strong rebound in equities that we have seen may have gotten ahead of the underlying economic fundamentals.

The monetary and fiscal response has been robust, and proactive. The Federal Reserve has pledged to do keep rates at or near zero, likely through at least 2022, and has begun bond buying activities in an effort to support the flow of credit to households and businesses. The CARES act, the largest stimulus bill in US history, has helped ease some of the financial burdens for many individuals and businesses affected by the efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. There continues to be talk of a second stimulus bill, though there are differences over what that bill might look like and whether it will be necessary.

We have been working to send out more regular communications during the last few months' regarding the impacts that COVID-19 is having on the economy. The idea is to provide material that takes a deeper dive into some of the events that have been unfolding, and how they might impact both your investments, and the economy more broadly. The easiest and most effective way to deliver these communications in a timely manner is via email. If you have not been receiving these communications, please reach out to us to confirm that we have your correct email address on file.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about your accounts, or any financial changes to report, give us a call.

Thank you,

Bryan J. Connolly, CFP®