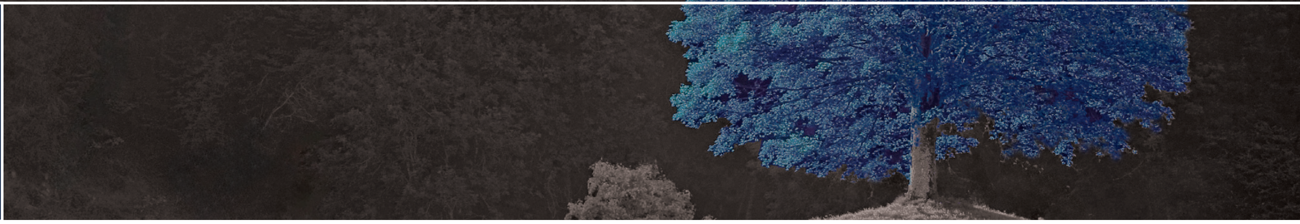
Q2 2026



2026 CFMG GOLF OUTING

Our annual Golf Outing will be held on **Monday, August 3rd at NCR Country Club.** Please RSVP w/ Sara Gallagher, Senior Marketing Associate via email @ *sara.gallagher@wfafinet.com.* **As always, we welcome you to bring a guest.**

Please see the attached for ideas to safeguard your accounts and personal information.

MARKET COMMENTARY

In our most recent market update, we shared perspective from First Trust on how markets have historically responded during periods of war and geopolitical conflict. While events in the Middle East have understandably created concern, recent market activity has once again reinforced an important reality: markets often react sharply to uncertainty in the short term, but over time, fundamentals tend to regain control... That said, we do not believe market pressure is fully behind us.

During the early stages of conflict in the Middle East, concerns surrounding supply disruptions through key shipping routes pushed oil prices higher. At the height of those concerns, crude oil moved above $110 per barrel before moderating as headlines surrounding ceasefire discussions temporarily eased market fears. However, developments surrounding the stability of the Strait of Hormuz continue to shift, influencing both the energy markets and investor sentiment. Energy prices remain an important variable to watch, particularly because sustained increases can place pressure on inflation and influence future Federal Reserve policy decisions.

Equity markets responded much as they historically have during periods of geopolitical uncertainty. The S&P 500 declined approximately 9% during the initial escalation at the end of February, before rebounding roughly 16%, (as of 5/6/2026) as investor focus shifted back to corporate earnings, economic data, and broader market fundamentals. While daily headlines continue to create short-term swings, it is important to remember that the market's long-term ability to work through periods of doubt has remained remarkably consistent over time.

Inflation and interest rate expectations also remain in focus. Higher energy prices have contributed modestly to inflation pressures, reinforcing expectations that the Federal Reserve may remain patient with future rate decisions. As inflation continues to be closely monitored, broader economic data remains relatively constructive. Consumer spending has continued to hold up well, labor markets remain stable, and first-quarter corporate earnings have generally exceeded expectations – reinforcing that the broader economy continues to operate from a position of strength despite ongoing geopolitical concerns.

As we look ahead, headlines surrounding geopolitics, oil prices, inflation, and Federal Reserve policy will likely continue to influence day-to-day market movement, and we believe swings in both directions remain likely. While the recent pullback in the S&P 500 reached approximately 9% - just shy of the traditional 10% threshold that defines a market correction – periods like this are not uncommon. According to Reuters analysis of Yardeni Research data, the S&P 500 has experienced 56 corrections of 10% or more since the Great Depression. Despite those periods of uncertainty, history has consistently demonstrated the market's ability to recover over time, highlighting the importance of maintaining perspective and staying disciplined through changing market environments.

As always if there is anything that needs to be discussed please let us know.

We thank you for your continued business and trust.

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