OMEGA
Wealth Management
Navigating the human & financial complexity of wealth

# NAVIGATING WEALTH

November 2025

*This month, we are sharing a shorter version of our newsletter, but giving you convenient links to read more. Jared and Lisa both have useful things to share! And we're continuing our Recommendations section!*

## Thanksgiving and the Real Politics of Family

*Jared Jones*
*CFP®, CeFT®, CIMA®, RLP®*
*Partner, Senior Advisor*

Everyone warns against bringing up politics at Thanksgiving, as if the real tension comes from a stray comment about what someone saw on cable news or social media. In most families, that's not what really gets people riled up, though it might get things started. The real politics are closer to home: who hosts, who gets asked to cook what, who didn't help clean up, and who's keeping things together. ***Read more...***

*Lisa Kirchenbauer*
*CFP®, RLP®, CeFT®, CPWA®*
*President • Founding Partner*
*Senior Advisor*

## Planning for a Successful 2026 (Starting NOW)

As we approach the end of November and into December, the focus for Omega and our clients is often on "year-end action". It's not too soon to start thinking about 2026 and about what you want to achieve, do and have resources for in the coming year. Some of our best work is to be able to look ahead and "around corners" for our clients. Below is a list of information/ ideas to be gathering and thinking about as we head into the holidays: ***Read more...***

# THE INVESTMENT BRIEF

Davis Gardner
CFP®, CeFT®, RLP®
Lead Advisor

*Editor's Note: We realize the data below doesn't reflect the most current market fluctuations and down trend. We still share the data through the previous month as part of our monthly summary.*

## Market Performance

U.S. stock indices climb further in October, reaching record highs once again in large part due to continued growth in the technology sector.

Here's where things stood as of the end of the month:

- S&P 500: +2.3% in October; +17.5% YTD
- Dow Jones Industrial Average (TR): +2.6% in October; +13.3% YTD
- Nasdaq-100 (TR): +4.8% in October; +23.8% YTD
- MSCI EAFE (Net TR, USD): +1.18% in October; +26.6% YTD

While the gap has thinned, international developed markets are still outpacing the U.S. as of October's end.

## Economic Data & Interest Rates

Delayed inflation data showed an annual increase of 2.9% - 3% through September, remaining around 2.9% through October.

Unemployment crept up to 4.3%. Specific jobs numbers remain unclear due to the challenges presented by the government shutdown.

The Fed cut interest rates by another 0.25% in October, with benchmark rates sitting in the 3.75% - 4% range as a result. Officials remain stuck trying to balance a slowing labor market and persistent inflation and have signaled that future rate cuts are no guarantee.

The 10-year Treasury yield ended slightly lower in October at 4.11%. The average 30-year mortgage rate also trended down to 6.17%.

## Consumer Sentiment

The University of Michigan's sentiment survey showed continued pessimism from consumers as prices remain stubbornly high. The index dropped from 55.1 to 53.6 over the month of October, trending downward yet still above the record low seen in April.

## Key Takeaways

Despite continued volatility and the longest government shutdown in our nation's history, markets showed persistence, with major indices chugging ahead showing double digit returns across the board so far this year.

Economic uncertainty remains a theme heading toward year-end, emphasizing the importance of diversification and flexibility in client portfolios.

# Using the Holidays to Talk About What's Important in Your Family

*Lisa Kirchenbauer*
*CFP®, RLP®, CeFT®, CPWA®*
*President • Founding Partner*
*Senior Advisor*

Once again, the holidays may be "treacherous" this year as we are all navigating the continuing economic and political headlines. In an effort to shift the conversation to something more meaningful this holiday season, we invite you to think and talk about what's important to your family and find some shared values you can agree on.

For a number of families we work with, we have created some questions to help us co-create a Family Legacy Values Statement. It can be a great document to educate younger generations on where the money came from, what's important to you, and what you think is an important use of money. It may open up some family charitable efforts or just allow you to begin a family conversation about money.

You don't have to share specifics about your wealth. It's about talking about money's role in our lives (or not) and what we care most about.

Here are a few of the questions to consider (feel free to pick and choose the most interesting ones for your family):

*What has been important to our family in the past? (could be education or travel, or the arts, home ownership, entrepreneurship, etc…)*

Building upon these values, are there any overarching themes that should guide your family's path in the future (new things that we think are important to "invest" in)?

*What is the story of our family's wealth? (hard work, business ownership, luck, others planning ahead for the next generation, etc…)*

How would you describe its purpose? What's the why behind the money, in your eyes? (an interesting question to ask each person at the table)

*What's the most valuable investment that you've ever made? How has it influenced your perspective on wealth and its potential?*

*What do you see as being the most important considerations for the family, and the family's wealth, over the next 5-10 years?*

Having a clear sense of the history and purpose of money in your family's life can help avoid misunderstandings, hurt feelings or a sense of entitlement or even confusion about how to spend/use money. Feel free to reach out to us if you'd like to explore this further.

> *"Align your financial legacy with your family's values and long-term goals*

# Recommendations - Books & Resources

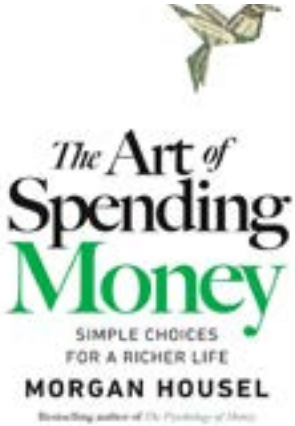
## *From Lisa...*

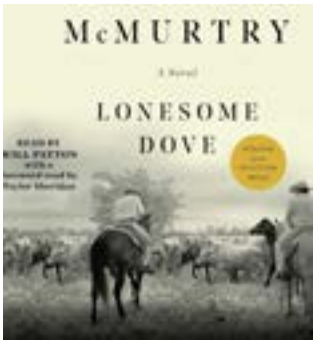
***"Becoming Steve Jobs: The Evolution of a Reckless Upstart into a Revolutionary Leader"*** by Brent Schlender and Rick Tetzeli
A fascinating look at a leader who lives on in Apple and Pixar. A walk down memory lane through the evolution of the technology & entertainment world we know today. A cautionary and inspiring tale for students of leadership.

Nucalm app: if you are looking for something to relax/focus/energize you, this may be the best all-in-one app out there. With some motivation from Tony Robbins, and the scientific use of different kinds of sound waves to create your optimal self. Use carefully!

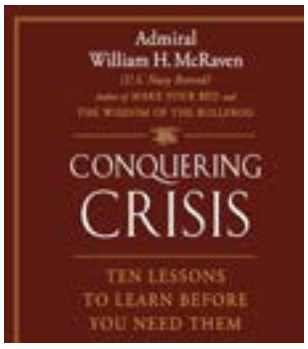
## *From Jared...*

***The Art of Spending Money***
by Morgan Housel
Currently reading this new release, which delves into the deeply personal pursuit of spending money. It's filled with phenomenal stories and unique perspectives.



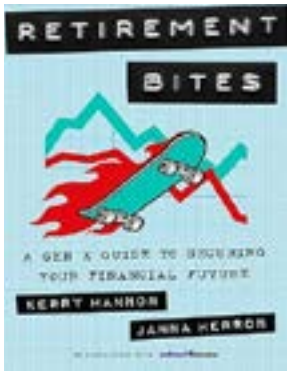




***Lonesome Dove***
by Larry McMurtry
A timeless classic I came across in September and quite possibly the best fiction I've ever read. It offers an honest portrayal of the American West, neither glorifying expansion nor apologizing for it. The unforgettable characters have been rattling around in my head since finishing the book.




***Conquering Crisis***
by Admiral William McRaven
Ten invaluable lessons on navigating and leading through crises. A must-read for business owners and leaders looking to manage the aftermath of challenging situations.

## *From Davis...*




***Retirement Bites: A Gen X Guide to Securing your Financial Future*** by Kerry Hannon and Janna Herron.
Americans born between 1965 - 1980 face uniqe circumstances and have been largely overlooked with regard to retirement planning and personal financial advice. As the next generation approaching retirement, this book is a roadmap to help these 64 million Americans take control of their financial futures and embrace the next phase of life with understanding and confidence.