



Warren Wealth Wisdom

Putting Clients First



Financial Planning When Planning Feels Impossible

We love to plan—of course we do; we plan for a living! And as our clients, we know you appreciate the value of a good plan, too. There's something comforting about knowing what's going to happen next. In fact, our brains are hardwired to want to plan and eliminate scary and unwelcome

surprises. Even when we read a book, we like to know on a subconscious level that the good guy will meet a mentor who will help him overcome the bad guy at the end of the day.

Right now, planning feels a little impossible. None of us know exactly how long we'll be wearing a mask to the grocery store, or how long we'll be working from home. It's especially difficult to plan one of the most exciting things of all...

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Please see final page for important disclosures.

WWA Team News

How We Found Positivity in a Pandemic



Chris

The last five months have been interesting for all of us, but I am proud of our team and how everyone stepped up to be there for each and every one of our clients, I am also very impressed with all of you for

NOT hitting the panic button. While these months have been trying, they have also reinforced our strong belief of our need to be prepared for the short-term but plan for the long-term.

Sue has been very busy with volunteering with various groups, including working with several groups to fund-raise and deliver food to community food banks in need. Garrett finished his sophomore year of college from home, he is currently scheduled to go back to college in a few weeks...fingers crossed

and hoping for the best. Zach is living and working in the Boston area, his company had everyone working from home for a period of time but they are now alternating days of the week in this new current normal.

One of the wonderful family highlights of our quarantine was reading a book written by my mother-in-law, Jenny Fischer, about her two-year adventure following the Lewis and Clark trail. She wrote about the history as well as the ways to experience that adventure in modern times.

After several months of all work no play I have gotten back into my workout routine and we have hosted some socially distant very small gatherings with friends on our patio...who knew how easy it is to entertain when people bring their own...everything.

From the Collins family to your family we continue to wish you the best during these times and we look forward to seeing you in whichever medium allows that. Be safe!



Scott

In early March, our little girl started to express an interest in walking. This quickly progressed into going on many walks outside as a family in the community we live in.

Everyone got to see Eleanor improve throughout the spring and summer and now she is the unofficial "mayor" of the neighborhood. To see her thriving during this time has made it a lot easier on her parents and I think she's brought a lot of joy to others as well.



Connie

Since this pandemic hit and we have been working from home, I found I have so much extra time on my hands. I have been reading a lot of books (I love reading) and am doing a lot more with painting and

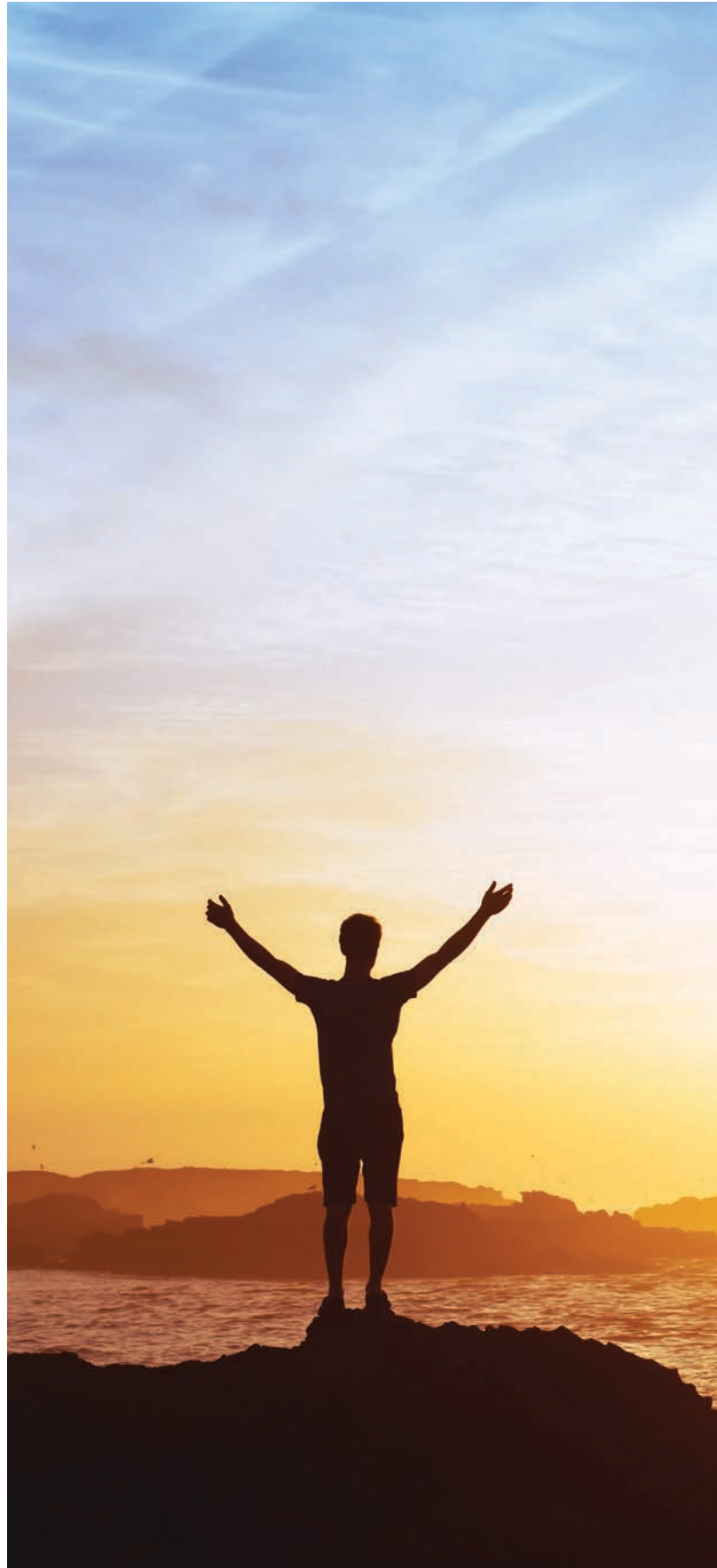
finishing furniture – for me it is very relaxing and calming (who knew!). I have also started getting into cooking, which has the added benefit of allowing me to spend more time with my son doing something we both enjoy. My personal favorite chef to watch is Chef John at Food Wishes (foodwishes.com or Food Wishes on YouTube).



Jenica

One of my biggest challenges during this pandemic has been finding ways to stay active. I have been a gym rat for 25 years and when gyms closed, it was the middle of winter. It turns out that with the gift of

more time, due to lack of commute, I took daily walks to my nearby bay to both explore and meditate, and this has been one of my most pleasurable quarantine past times. In addition, I have discovered a new love of an app called 'Beachbody on Demand' which offers hundreds of workout videos in all different genres by many wonderful instructors. I absolutely love the app and portability factor, and will continue using it well beyond the point at which my gym opens again, whenever that is!





Saving Energy While WFH

*Save Money.
Save the Environment.*

Even if you aren't concerned about the financial ramifications of using more electricity at home, it's always a good idea to save energy for the environment. With more of us working (and schooling) from home, we're using more of our household resources (like electricity and water) than our houses and apartments are used to. Here are a few ways to be eco-friendly (and budget friendly) while working from home...

Energy Saving Mode

Most laptops, computers, and phones have "energy saver" mode. Use these settings to save battery so you're plugging in less often. In most cases, this won't change the functions of your electronics.

Use a Laptop

In case you need another reason to take your work to the couch... did you know that using a laptop can save four times as much electricity compared to a desktop computer? You can also take your laptop to a tall counter in your home and work while standing, which can relieve pressure on your back from sitting too much.

Unplug

Appliances on "standby" mode (plugged in but not being used) still use electricity. Consider unplugging devices like your coffee maker and toaster when you're not using them. Some household appliances (like your washer and dryer) also have energy-saver mode. Similarly, using a dishwasher on a low-heat setting will use less energy.

Harness Daylight

If you're working from home, you finally get to enjoy your house during the afternoon - meaning you get to enjoy the beautiful sunlight you used to only experience on weekends or at the office. Take advantage of the daylight and let it filter through the windows rather than flipping on all your switches. Not only will you save energy, but the natural light will help balance your circadian rhythms and help you sleep better!

Cook Smart

When cooking, try to use your oven for multiple dishes at once. You can plan ahead and bake three meals at one time, saving you both time and energy. This way, you won't have to heat up your oven three separate times, and you'll have meals ready for the entire week instead of spending three nights in front of the stove—talk about a win-win!

Turn Up the Thermostat

In the summer, setting your thermostat just one or two degrees warmer can make a positive impact on your energy bill. Some electricity companies also offer energy-saving plans, where you opt to conserve energy during peak hours of the day. Find out if your provider offers a plan like this and take advantage of it!

Use a Smart Meter

You can also ask your electricity provider about a smart meter, which tells you which devices or appliances in your home are using the most energy. If you're running multiple loads of laundry during the heat of the afternoon, for example, you might be taking a bigger hit on your energy bill than you realize. Take advantage of these smart devices to learn how you can dial back to be more eco- and budget-friendly.



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—vacations! (We're sad about that one, too.) But the good news is, you can continue making sound financial plans, even though we don't know exactly what the future holds. We're here to be that mentor who helps you win the day. We may not know what the next few months will entail, but we have five tips for making solid financial plans in uncertain times...

01

Take Stock of Your Situation

It can be tempting, when the world is spinning out of control, to spin along with it. But now is a great time to take a deep breath and an honest look at your financial situation. What's changed in your household or day-to-day routine? Did anyone in your family lose their job or take a pay cut?

Then, take a look at the other side of the coin—are you spending less money because you're not commuting or eating out? Those may be opportunities to spend a little less money on things like a new fall wardrobe or taxi fare. It could be that you have a student starting college this month, but in a virtual capacity -meaning no living expenses. Understand how your income and expenses have actually changed so you can plan more effectively.

02

Adjust Your Emergency Fund

It may seem difficult to save more when there's less wiggle room in your budget, but because of the future uncertainties, it's important to plan even more. While the typical advice is to save three to six months of expenses for your emergency fund, now is a good time to expand that amount. If you can save extra, do it—aim for saving eight or twelve months of your expenses. You may not know what the next year looks like, but you can rest a little easier knowing you're prepared.

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03

Adjust Your Portfolio

You might be a risk-taker on a normal day, but these aren't normal times. You may consider lowering your investment risks; but you might consider being more aggressive with your strategy. The good news is, not every business and individual is taking a financial hit from the pandemic. While it's certainly a nation-wide issue, there are some businesses serving more customers than ever since the safer-at-home orders. Everyone's situation is different, so make an appointment with us to talk about whether your portfolio still suits your current situation.

**How can we help?**

If you come across any questions or concerns while you're reviewing your financial situation, don't hesitate to reach out! We may be working from home, but we're standing by to help. We look forward to speaking with you soon!

04

Long-Term Planning

As our client, we know you've considered your long-term financial needs and how your loved ones will be protected once you're gone. If you've been putting off a few of the details of your end-of-life decisions, now could be the time to make those plans. We're not trying to be morbid, but amid a pandemic, you want to make sure your ducks are all in line.

It's a good time to answer questions such as who will be your power of attorney and health care proxy, should you need one. Make sure you've appointed someone to govern your assets and end-of-life affairs so that your money and possessions go where you want them to go, not where the courts decide.

05

Don't Neglect the Initial Plan

While it feels like the Coronavirus has taken over our lives, it's important to remember that *this is temporary*. Hopefully, things will return to "normal" at some point, even if it takes longer than we expected. When that happens, you'll be glad you stayed the course in the tough times. If you're still employed, continue to add money to your retirement plan. Even if you can't contribute the same amount as you have been, you'll thank yourself later that you didn't quit altogether. Again, these times are temporary, so saving less than your normal investment shouldn't affect your planning too much in the long run.

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