I have been traveling a lot recently, so I have not had a chance to write an update on things in a few weeks. The see-saw in the markets has continued this Fall, with the month of October living up to its reptation as a brutal month and a subsequent rally so far in the month of November. This has largely negated a tough quarter for the markets with some indices trading not far off from the highs of the summer. In fact, if you didn't look at things since July, you would think nothing had really changed at all! The trading range we have seeming been in all year is very much intact.

The markets over the past year have been supported by the so-called **3 Pillars of Support** (thank you Tom Essaye) supporting stocks over the past year. As long as these Pillars remain in place, the markets should be somewhat impervious to a significant pullback that would bring the S&P 500 to a level below 4000.

- Soft Economic Landing This is the most likely economic outcome based on the data we have seen so far. While there has been some loss of economic momentum, the economy has remained resilient, is still growing and is showing few signs of material economic slowdown. Keep a close eye on the ISM Manufacturing/Services Indices and Employment. For a full rundown, see the chart below.
- 2. Disinflation As last week's CPI report confirmed, disinflation is still in place. While this does not mean that prices will go down (that would be deflation and would not be welcome) the rate at which prices are increasing is clearly ebbing. This is key to the Federal Reserve not increasing rates from here and the market has confirmed trough trading in the futures market that the Fed is done.
- 3. **Rates** The Fed is done or almost done with rate increases. As noted, the lowerthan-expected CPI report has fully priced in the Fed is done raising rates. An important change to this pillar is, now that the Fed seems to be done, when do they cut? The market expectations are that the Fed will CUT rates 3-4 times next year while the Fed has forecasted one cut. Clearly the market is calling their bluff. Either way, this justifies our position that investors should lock in these rates now. Reinvestment risk is substantial with short term bond investments in investments like 1-year CD's.

I hope you have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving this week. Our offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday is a shortened half-day of trading with the market closing at 1 PM on 11/25/23. Don't look now but 2024 is only weeks away!

November Upcoming Events for Davis Executive Wealth Management

<u>November 22nd, 2023</u>---Tim Davis with be on SiriusXM Business Radio's *The Business Briefing* at 9am this Wednesday Morning. Channel 132.

https://www.siriusxm.com/channels/business-radio

<u>November 29th, 2023</u>--- Davis Executive Wealth Management Call Series Featuring: Gregg Cohen-President of Campus Bound for a discussion about how to bring down the cost of college regardless of your eligibility for Financial Aid. Areas to be covered.

- Planning considerations as you approach the college years.
- Maximizing merit and need-based scholarships.
- · Explaining Important changes to the new financial aid formula
- Review of the best ways to pay for college.
- Answer your questions on college admissions and financial aid!!

Registration Link

https://raymondjames.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F0tMzrohT2K8LaOvGM2uag#/registration

Regards,

Tim

See Our Latest Thoughts on the Markets: https://davis.stewardpartners.com/.6.htm

Timothy Davis, CFP®

Executive Managing Director – Wealth Manager

Partner

Davis Executive Wealth Management Group

Steward Partners Global Advisory One International Place, Suite 3210 Boston, MA 02110 (Direct) 617-377-4418 (Office) 617-377-4422 (Toll Free) 888-371-0086 (Fax) 857-233-2966

t.davis@stewardpartners.com

http://www.davis.stewardpartners.com/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/timothy-davis-executive-wealth-management

*2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisor

https://www.forbes.com/profile/timothy-davis

All recognition award information can be found on Steward Partners' website at http://www.stewardpartners.com/recognition.34.html

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