

# Member Connections

By



Federal Credit Union

Fall 2021

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## President's Message



Anyone up for a "white out"? I watched the Penn State game on Saturday and was swept up in the energy and sense of community that was exploding. Don't get me wrong, the game was full of excitement, amazing focus and execution, and in the end Penn State prevailed.

So, what is it that makes a "white out" so special? For those of you who may have never seen or experienced it, a "white out" is when the Penn State crowd is all asked to dress in white shirts as a sign of unity and support for the team. It is intimidating to walk into the stadium and see 105,000 white shirts covering the stands. But that is just the costume. At the core is the support for the community; yelling, chanting "WE ARE..." and cheering the team on.

So, what do we have in common with a "white out"? First, together we are stronger. As a member of MC Federal, you are part of a financially strong community that has amazing focus and execution, and is making great things happen for you, members of our Credit Union Community.

Let's talk offense. Our loan rates are the best around providing you the lowest cost option when you borrow for that special need. If we could post the rates of those credit cards in your wallet on the scoreboard and compare them to an MC Federal rate, you may see one as low as 7.99% APR\*. That is tough to beat. Let's huddle around a balance transfer or consolidation.

Savings is a key part of the playbook and our rates, again, are best in class. In addition to great rates, our commitment to educate our member community with tools that support your financial well-being are available in this publication, at one of our in-person classes, or through our partner, GreenPath, at no expense to you.

On the defensive front, our fraud protection and world-class member service team are on the field with you. The roar of 13,000 MC Federal members isn't quite the same as a Beaver Stadium "white out" roar, but it is just as impactful. Stop in to schedule a financial well-being checkup with one of our team members.

On the legislative front, we issued a "Call to Action" to advocate to our representatives in Washington. The issue is simple. In order to pay for the \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill, it has been proposed that all financial institutions may be required to report the transactional details of your account if you had a balance of \$600. This attempt to access your financial transaction history is wrong, it is invasive, and we need to put on our white shirts and roar back. Tell your representatives you oppose any legislation that violates the privacy related to your financial transactions and accounts, and you oppose the reporting burden that will be cast on our Credit Union. Let's assimilate this foul as "targeting", that is the infraction that gets the offender thrown out of the game.

As I close, I want to acknowledge Team MC Federal. They are tirelessly working for you as cheerleaders - lifting you up, as referees - making sure you are protected, and as teammates - being there for you, in your moment of need. We are blessed! They have been there for all of you through this pandemic. Facing the enemy, mask on, supporting you, our valued member. I can't tell the stories that many of you have shared regarding this crisis, but I can share the reality that our team has been there with an open mind and a solution that changed many frowns into a smile. Stay safe, and thanks for being an important part of MC Federal!

*Jim Barbarich*

Jim Barbarich  
President & CEO



\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Current rates range from 7.99% APR to 18.00% APR. Rates are subject to change without notice. The Annual Percentage Rate can vary based on creditworthiness. Qualified credit limit will be determined by certain underwriting criteria. For current rates, fees and other cost information, please contact MC Federal Credit Union at 800-834-0082.

## Calendar

### October

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/ 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

10/11 - All Branches Closed - Columbus Day

10/21 - International Credit Union Day

10/31 - Happy Halloween

### November

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

11/11 - All Branches Closed - Veteran's Day

11/25 - All Branches Closed - Thanksgiving

### December

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

12/24 - All Branches Close @ 12 - Christmas Eve

12/25 - All Branches Closed - Christmas Day

### January 2022

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

01/01 - All Branches Close - New Years Day

01/17 - All Branches Closed - MLK Jr. Day

## Supporting our Communities

### First Summer Festival a Success

On Saturday, August 7th, MC Federal Credit Union hosted their first Summer Festival at our Lewisburg Branch. We had 15 food, craft, and direct sales vendors set up across the parking lot. The goal of this event was twofold. First, we aimed to raise funds and awareness for Getting Ahead Foundation, one of our financial literacy partners. Second, we wanted to showcase local small businesses and entrepreneurs who have been hit hard by the pandemic. With the support of our vendors who participated in the event, teammembers of MC Federal Credit Union and their families who volunteered their time, and members of our community who came out to shop, we were able to raise **\$1,350 to benefit Getting Ahead Foundation.**

Getting Ahead Foundation offers Getting Ahead in the Valley, a community initiative offered at no cost to interested families who are ready to begin moving toward freedom from poverty. Individuals and families self-select themselves to participate in a curriculum called Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World and create a future story for their family. It is a multi-phased self-sufficiency program that supports low income individuals as they work to build resources and achieve goals towards stability. As part of this program, MC Federal teaches a 6 week financial literacy course. The six sessions focus on basic economic empowerment skills and financial knowledge to serve as a road map to financial well-being.

If you would like to learn more about Getting Ahead Foundation and their mission to help families climb out of poverty, you can visit their website: <https://www.gettingaheadfoundation.org>



To learn more about financial literacy classes taught by MC Federal or to gain access to additional financial wellness tools, visit our website: [mcfcu.org](https://mcfcu.org), **click resources, then click financial wellness.**







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### Saving Money Isn't a Luxury - It's a Necessity

#### 4 Reasons to Start Saving Now – Plus Tips for Getting Started

Saving money can often be a challenge—especially during times of financial uncertainty. As humans, we're wired to take care of our needs now, and worry about later... well, later.

However, saving money is a critical component of financial wellness. Here, we break down why saving (even a small amount) can make all the difference:

#### Saving Helps To...

##### Prepare us for emergencies:

Putting aside a set amount each month helps protect us in a financial emergency. Perhaps it's a surprise medical bill, car repairs, or temporary loss of income. There are many reasons why an emergency fund is critical to help handle unexpected expenses. Plus, building up emergency savings to cover unexpected expenses is better than using high-interest credit cards or taking out a loan. An emergency fund gives you peace of mind and prevents you from going into debt.

##### Set us up to manage planned expenses:

For those anticipating making large purchases, saving money can help us prepare our budget to pay for expenses that we plan to take on – such as a down payment on a car, home improvements, or an upcoming vacation. Emergency savings are also useful for smaller cash outlays like costs for pets, car maintenance and other important bills. Here again, by saving up for planned purchases whether they be the significant expenses or lower cost items, we can avoid using high-interest credit cards or taking on other debt. When you plan ahead, you take control of managing your monthly income.

##### Reduce stress:

Financial stress is real. It can be overwhelming to have bills and expenses that we struggle to pay each month. In fact, many researchers see a significant connection between financial stress and mental health and well-being. During the ongoing pandemic, financial strain is felt by the newly unemployed, furloughed, and those still working but facing an uncertain future. When you build up savings, you reduce the stress many of us feel about our finances and give yourself a gift – peace of mind.

#### Provide a sense of freedom:

Gaining a sense of freedom might not be the first reason that comes to mind as a benefit of setting up a savings plan. Yet many of the people who contact GreenPath Financial Wellness report enjoying a sense of improved freedom and flexibility after building up savings, no matter the amount. Setting aside even \$20 a paycheck is proven to provide a feeling of freedom due to the "buffer" savings gives you. Knowing that a savings "nest egg" exists gives people more freedom to choose how to handle their finances, rather than feeling stuck in a particular situation.

#### How to Jump-Start Your Savings

##### 1. Assess your budget.

Use our Budgeting Worksheet to get a handle on your monthly income and typical expenses, including credit card debt or other loan payments.

##### 2. Commit to a monthly savings amount.

Once you have a complete picture of monthly income, expenses, and debt, consider how much you can set aside each month to build up savings. How much you set aside will depend on your financial goals. For instance, if you're planning for a large purchase, break down the amount over a 6 month or 12-month period, and automate savings to meet that goal.

##### 3. Automate your savings.

Automating savings makes it more "painless." You'll be able to set it and forget it, by paying yourself first through automated deposits.



#### 4. Maximize Interest.

Ensure you're maximizing the interest you're earning by getting a competitive annual percentage yield (APY). Consider a money market or other higher interest account.

#### 5. Make it a family affair.

Setting a savings goal with loved ones lets you come to a consensus about goals and dreams. That way, it is easier for you all to plan and encourage each other to save for emergencies, planned expenses, or other goals. Saving for the future is closer than you think. Building savings can seem like a daunting task, but you will start to see results with practice and patience.

If you're unsure how much you can reasonably save each month or need a helping hand getting started, you can request a free financial health assessment with a GreenPath NFCC-certified Financial Wellness Expert.

Their professional, caring coaches will work with you to assess your situation, explain the options or solutions available, and help you create a plan to meet your goals. It's free, confidential, and no pressure.

#### The Path to Financial Wellness Starts Here

- [greenpath.com/mcfcu](https://greenpath.com/mcfcu) -

No matter what your goals may be, our partners at GreenPath can help you take control of your day-to-day financial choices to create more opportunities for achieving your dreams.



Create a Budget



Save More



Pay off Debt



Improve Credit



Buy a House



Plan for the Future

Connect with a GreenPath Counselor Today!

877-337-3399

## Get Ready for a More Seamless Credit Card Management Experience!

DXO is replacing Access Point

A new and improved Online Credit Card Management Site is coming soon! We're excited to bring you a new, responsive Online Credit Card Management website, DXO, where you'll enjoy an optimized user experience on any device — desktop, tablet or mobile. The updated site includes:

- A new look
- A simplified experience
- Improved navigation
- Better viewing from your mobile or tablet devices
- Additional features like Alerts and Controls

DXO will be available on Thursday, October 13, 2021. You may experience some down time that day while we complete this transition.

To log into DXO, simply use the same username and password you currently use within Access Point. The link to log in will be available on our website and in our digital banking platform. If you have any questions about your online access during the transition time, or about the new platform, contact us at 800.834.0082 or stop by your local branch.



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## We want to help your business succeed!

Let us help you today!

Your business is our business, and we are here to serve you! Big or small, new or established, our knowledgeable team of Elba Arenas, Chief Member Experience Officer, Brian Wiktor, Chief Lending Officer, and Annette Welch, Regional Relationship Manager, want to share their passion for growing your business and helping your employees succeed financially. Give us a call today, 800.834.0082, to schedule a time for our team to visit and show you how we can make a difference for your business and your employees.



## Holiday Shopping Tips

## Financial Wellness

Holiday planning can be stressful. Follow these two holiday tips to put a little more jolly into your holiday season:

- 1. Be like Santa.** Make your list and check it twice! Plan out who you are buying for, what you want to buy, and how much you want to spend.
- 2. Homemade Holiday.** Craft homemade gifts together with your family. This will help you save some money and will create fun holiday memories.

If you still find yourself feeling stressed about holiday finances, we are here to help. With solutions like our Holiday Helper Loan, our Skip-A-Pay program, and specialized financial wellness advice from our partners at GreenPath, we aim to make this the happiest holiday season of all!

## Locations and Hours

### Danville

390 Walnut Street  
Danville, PA 17821  
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm  
Fr: 8am-6pm  
Sat: 9am-12pm

### Bloomsburg

599 East 7th Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815  
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm  
Fr: 8am-6pm  
Sat: 9am-12pm

### Evangelical Community Hospital

1 Hospital Drive  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
M-Fr: 7:30am-4:00pm

### Merck Cherokee Pharmaceuticals

100 Avenue C  
Riverside, PA 17868  
M-Tu-Fr: 8am-1pm

### Lewisburg

1339 Saint Mary Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm  
Fr: 8am-6pm  
Sat: 9am-12pm

### Mount Carmel

11218 State Route 61  
Mount Carmel, PA 17851  
M-Th: 8am-4:30pm  
Fr: 8am-6pm  
Sat: 9am-12pm

**800.834.0082** **mcfcu.org**

Mobile App: MC Federal Credit Union

Social Media: @mcfederalcreditunion

