

## Taking Care of Main Street, Not Wall Street.

Community Banking

Here at Citizens FSB, we know the best investments yield a high return. That's why we're investing time and money into the communities we serve. We're a part of our communities as a neighbor, a friend, and as family.



## Weekly Economic News & Updates

[www.citizensfsb.bank](http://www.citizensfsb.bank)

### THE WEEK ON WALL STREET

Traders paid close attention to coronavirus developments and earnings last week, while wondering how the former might eventually impact the latter. Concern over updated infection numbers moderated risk appetite.

A pair of key stock benchmarks posted similar weekly losses. In New York, the S&P 500 declined 1.25%; the MSCI EAFE index (of developed stock markets away from North America) lost 1.24%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average retreated 1.38% for the four-day trading week; the Nasdaq Composite, 1.59%.<sup>1,2</sup>

### Minutes from the Federal Reserve's January Meeting

Last month, members of the Federal Open Market Committee felt the near-term outlook for the economy had improved slightly since the last Fed meeting in December. The minutes did note that the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak "warranted close watching." Some analysts have wondered, if the coronavirus threat heightens, whether the Fed might cut short-term interest rates this year. The FOMC voted 11-0 in January to leave rates alone.<sup>3</sup>

### Fewer Home Sales, But More Building Permits

Sales of existing homes weakened 1.3% in January, according to a new National Association of Realtors report. On the new home front, the Census Bureau said that the rate of permits for new residential construction neared a 13-year high last month.<sup>4,5</sup>

### FINAL THOUGHT

At Friday's closing bell, gold was worth \$1,646.60 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Gold futures traded at a seven-year peak on Friday morning.<sup>4</sup>

### WEEKLY QUOTE

*"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."*

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

### WEEKLY TIP

*Mortgage rates are at an all time low, don't just shop rate but also look at closing costs. Citizens FSB has the lowest closing costs and we keep our loans.*

### WEEKLY RIDDLE

*Touching me is inevitable. I can send chills down spines. Even so, you may welcome me. What am I?*

### Last week's answer:

*A smartphone .*

Sources: MarketingPro, Financial Strategies Group, The Baker Group, wsj.com, bigcharts.com, treasury.gov, Randy Baker and Chris Low and Rebecca Kooshak FTN Financial

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