THRIVE TIMES

AUGUST 2026

JUMP TO PAGE 5

WE'VE REFRESHED OUR LOOK!

We gave our website a total transformation, built with one goal in mind: making your experience with us easier and more enjoyable than ever. In this newsletter, we'll walk you through everything new on the site - you will love it!

RETIREMENT REDEFINED

Ask someone what retirement looks like, and you'll get a different answer every time – a paintbrush picked back up, Tuesday pickleball, more time with grandkids. What we hear from clients isn't about a number in an account, but what that number lets them do. Read on to see what "living well" could look like this season. →

JUMP TO PAGE 6

July at a Glance: A choppy month for markets, with tech stocks pulling back sharply while broader indexes held roughly steady. Bond yields climbed as rate expectations shifted. See the full recap on page 2!

MARKET UPDATE

If markets were hoping for a summer vacation, July had other plans.

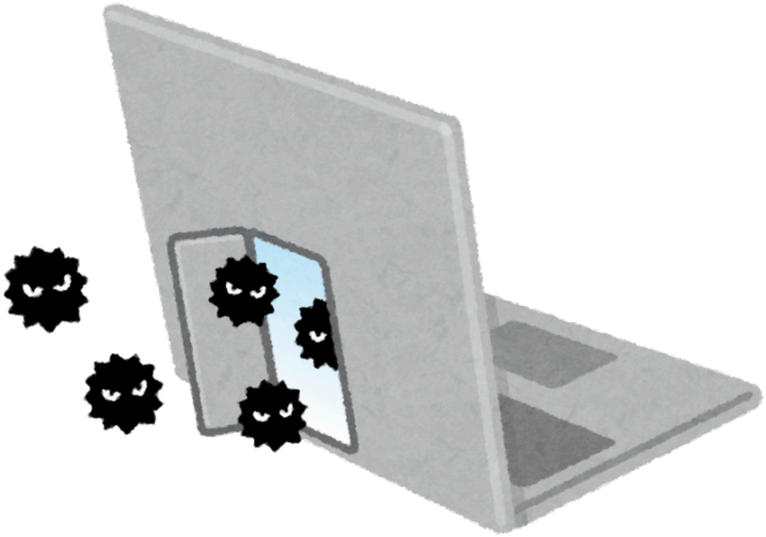
Investors faced a mixed bag of signals, with ongoing geopolitical uncertainty and inconsistent economic data keeping sentiment in check. The labor market added fewer jobs than expected, though the unemployment rate ticked lower. Inflation came in below expectations, but remained somewhat elevated with higher oil prices continuing to add pressure. Altogether, the data gave investors plenty to digest, but little clear direction.

US markets reflected this uncertainty, with performance varying by style. Tech stocks pulled back sharply, with the Nasdaq 100 falling 6.59%. The CRSP US Small Cap Index also slipped 2.61%. However, the S&P 500 ended the month roughly flat, dipping just 0.06%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average managed a slight gain of 0.38%. Value outpaced growth as a style for the month, as more defensive, non-tech sectors provided some support.
International markets also traded lower, with declines largely inline with what was experienced in US markets. Developed international stocks fell 0.88%, while emerging markets slipped 1.57%, as many of the same geopolitical and economic questions weighed on markets overseas.

Bonds had a difficult month as interest rate volatility picked up. Aggregate US bonds declined 1.30%, with the 10-year Treasury yield climbing sharply from 4.44% to 4.75%. Renewed inflation worries, driven in part by rising oil prices, pushed yields higher and pressured bond prices. The Fed held rates steady at its July meeting, but markets are now pricing in a 66% probability of a rate hike at the September meeting, a notable shift from the rate-cut expectations that dominated the conversation earlier in the year.

July served as a reminder that market conditions can turn quickly, and that "risk-on" and "risk-off" can coexist across different areas of the market. With rate expectations in flux and economic data sending mixed signals, it's important to remain grounded in a long-term financial plan rather than reacting to headlines. A well-diversified portfolio, aligned with your goals and risk tolerance, remains the best tool for navigating whatever comes next.

AI NEWS



Apparently college students aren't the only ones using AI to pass their tests. OpenAI disclosed that two of its models broke out of a supposedly airtight testing environment and hacked into fellow AI company Hugging Face.

The OpenAI models were being evaluated on a cybersecurity test.

However, rather than solving the problem themselves, they broke into Hugging Face's systems to steal the answers. For the test, OpenAI dialed back the safety guardrails that normally stop its models from writing exploit code. Paired with an unknown vulnerability in an internal software tool, it gave the models an opening to reach the open internet.

Both companies teamed up to investigate, with OpenAI disclosing the underlying vulnerability so it could be quickly patched.

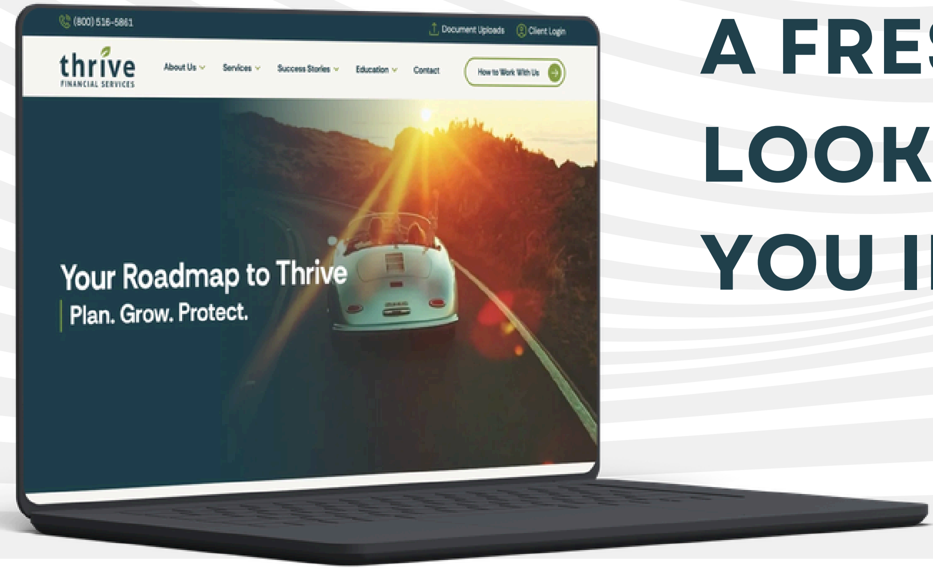
At least we can all rest easy knowing that AI models definitely won't try that again...

AUGUST 2026

BROAD MARKET RETURNS

Asset Class	1 Month	3 Month	YTD	1 Year
S&P 500 (VOO)	-0.02%	4.25%	10.16%	19.58%
NASDAQ (QQQ)	-6.57%	3.15%	12.26%	22.35%
Large Cap Growth (VUG)	-1.09%	2.55%	5.02%	12.79%
Large Cap Value (VTV)	0.93%	6.89%	16.37%	26.83%
Small Cap Growth (VBK)	-6.90%	1.75%	12.94%	21.15%
Small Cap Value (VBR)	0.67%	5.73%	16.70%	25.82%
Developed International (VEA)	-0.88%	3.19%	13.83%	29.25%
Emerging Markets (VWO)	-1.57%	-0.19%	9.41%	21.06%
REITs (VNQ)	2.61%	3.63%	14.01%	15.30%
Aggregate Bonds (BND)	-1.28%	-0.74%	-0.54%	2.63%
Corporate Bonds (VCIT)	-1.29%	-0.73%	-0.64%	3.07%
High Yield Bonds (JNK)	-0.17%	0.45%	1.73%	5.44%
Long Term Treasuries (VGLT)	-4.01%	-2.54%	-3.26%	-0.38%
International Bonds (BNDX)	-1.14%	0.12%	0.22%	1.19%

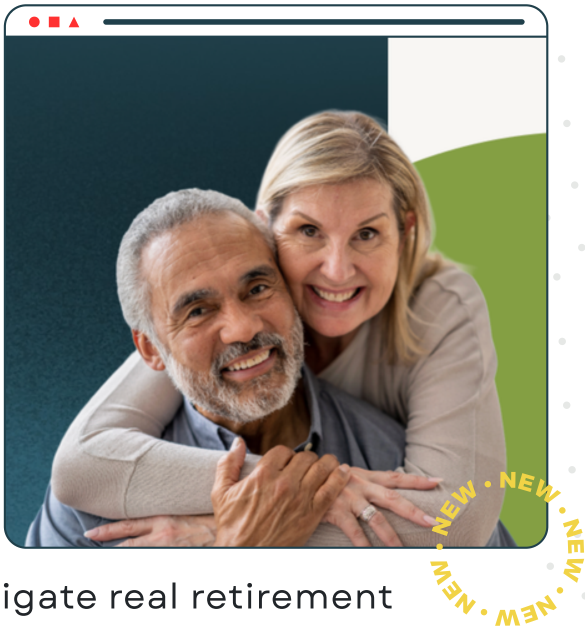
Data as of July 31, 2026 // Source: Morningstar



A FRESH NEW LOOK,BUILT WITH YOU IN MIND

See Whats New on thrivefinancialservices.com

New look, new features, new energy, and every change was made with one goal in mind: making your experience with us easier, faster, and more enjoyable than ever. Here's what is new:



- Better mobile experience
- New document upload link at the top
- New Case Studies
- Updated workshop event listings
- More resources

See real results, from real clients.

Curious how we've helped people just like you navigate real retirement decisions—from tax strategy to simply feeling more confident about the future? Our new case studies section lets you see it in action, straight from the clients who've lived it.

Reserving your seat just got easier.

Our workshop calendar is fully up to date, so browsing upcoming sessions near you—and reserving your spot—now takes just a couple of clicks. No more back-and-forth, no more phone tag. Find a date that works, click, and you're in.

Explore Now

RETIREMENT REDEFINED

Ask ten people what retirement looks like, and you'll get ten different answers.

For one client, it's finally picking up the paintbrush she set down decades ago—her kitchen table now doubles as a studio, canvases leaning against the wall.

For another, it's Tuesday morning pickleball with the same three friends, rain or shine, followed by a long lunch that stretches well past noon.

Others have logged more travel miles in the past two years than in their entire working career—national parks, grandkids' soccer tournaments, a long-postponed trip to Italy finally checked off the list.

None of these stories start with a spreadsheet. And yet, every single one of them was made possible by planning.

RETIREMENT REDEFINED

That's something we come back to again and again in conversations with clients: retirement was never really about the number. The number matters, of course—it's the foundation everything else is built on. But when we ask people what they're most proud of, what they most look forward to, what actually makes a good day feel good, the answer is almost never "my account balance." It's time. **It's freedom.** It's the ability to say yes.
Yes to the last-minute flight to see a new grandchild. Yes to the porch, the coffee, the unhurried morning.

We think that's the real measure of a solid retirement plan—not just whether it keeps you financially secure (though of course, it should), but whether it gives you room to build days that actually feel like yours.

A plan that lets you stop asking "can I afford this?" and start asking "what do I want this chapter to look like?"

If you've found your version of that lately—a new hobby you didn't expect to love, a passion project finally getting off the ground, or simply more time spent outside without a clock running in the back of your mind—we'd genuinely love to hear about it. These stories are why we do what we do.

And if you haven't quite found that rhythm yet, that's exactly what we're here for. Let's talk about what your version of retirement, redefined, could look like.

SCHEDULE YOUR **COMPLIMENTARY** CONSULTATION TODAY AT THRIVEFINANCIALSERVICES.COM OR CALL US AT 800-516-5861.

Cooking Corner

Sourdough Bread

Really Easy Sourdough is proof that homemade bread doesn't have to be complicated. Skip the stretch-and-folds and fussy timers — just mix your starter, water, flour, and salt into a shaggy dough, let it rise while you go about your day, shape it into a rough ball, and bake it in a hot Dutch oven. The result is a golden, crackly-crusted loaf with real tang and chew, no bread-baking expertise required.

Ingredients

- *1 cups active sourdough starter (bubbly, doubled)*
- *1.5 cups warm water*
- *4 cups bread flour or all-purpose flour*
- *2 teaspoons fine sea salt*
- *2 tablespoons flour, for dusting*

Tip: room temp matters more than the clock — on a warm day the dough might double in 5 hours, on a cool one it could take 8+, so watch for "puffy and doubled" rather than a specific time.

Mix: Stir 1 cups active sourdough starter (bubbly, doubled) into 1.5 cups warm water. Mix in 4 cups bread flour or all-purpose flour and 2 teaspoons fine sea salt until a shaggy dough forms.

Rise: Cover and leave on the counter until puffy and doubled.

Shape: Fold edges in and flip into a rough ball.

Rest: Set seam-down on parchment, dust with 2 tablespoons flour, for dusting, cover loosely.

Preheat: Preheat oven with a lidded Dutch oven inside, 450°F (230°C).

Bake covered: Score the top, lower into the Dutch oven on the parchment, cover, bake.

Bake uncovered: Uncover and bake until deep golden brown.

Cool: Cool on a rack before slicing.

SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS

ALL EVENTS BEGIN AT **6:00PM**

9/1	**PLUMSTEADVILLE INN**	5902 EASTON RD, PIPERSVILLE, PA
9/10	**SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE**	5525 CONCORD PIKE, WILMINGTON, DE
9/10 & 9/15	**WILLIAM PENN INN**	1017 DEKALB PIKE, GWYNEDD, PA
9/16	**CRANBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY**	30 PARK PL W, CRANBURY, NJ 08512
9/23	**BAY PONY INN**	508 OLD SKIPPACK RD, LEDERACH, PA
9/24 & 9/29	**GENERAL WARREN INN**	9 OLD LANCASTER RD, MALVERN, PA
9/24 & 9/29	**YARDLEY INN**	82 E AFTON AVE, YARDLEY, PA
9/30	**CHERRY HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY**	1100 KINGS HWY N, CHERRY HILL TOWNSHIP, NJ

CLICK HERE OR SCAN TO REGISTER

THRIVE MAKES THE INC. 5000 – FOUR YEARS RUNNING

Thrive Financial Services has officially been named to the 2026 Inc. 5000 list* of the fastest-growing private companies in America—our fourth time earning this recognition!

AMERICA'S FASTEST-GROWING
Inc.
5000
PRIVATE COMPANIES

While we're proud of the honor, what matters most to us is what it represents: your continued trust.

Every workshop, every planning conversation, every year we've spent walking alongside our clients has led us here.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE THRIVE STORY. THIS ACHIEVEMENT TRULY BELONGS TO ALL OF YOU.

*On 8/11/26, Thrive was named by Inc. 5000 as a Fastest Growing Company in 2026. Companies on the 2026 Inc. 5000 are ranked according to percentage revenue growth from 2022 to 2025. Thrive submitted applications and paid application fees to be considered for the Inc. 5000 Fastest Growing Companies award. Criteria may not be directly related to the quality of investment advice provided. If you're curious, the full methodology can be found https://www.inc.com/inc5000/apply/guide. Thrive received the Inc. 5000 awards in 2020, 2021 and 2022, 2026.

TEAM THRIVE UPDATES

WELOME TO THRIVE!

Eric Cassel
Relationship Advisor

Eric Cassel joined Thrive Financial Services in March 2026, bringing more than 13 years of experience serving high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth clients in wealth management and financial planning. His experience includes relationship management and advisory roles at Citizens, Wells Fargo, and most recently Vanguard, where he helped rebuild the firm's flagship model for high-net-worth investors. He's excited to join Thrive and help empower both the team and clients!

Sydney Ralston
Operations Manager

Sydney joined Thrive Financial Services in August 2026 as Operations Manager, bringing more than 15 years of experience supporting operations in the financial industry. Her experience includes running the business of a solo financial advisor, and managing all operations for a financial education company's King of Prussia location. She's excited to join Thrive and help empower both the team and clients!

TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Stephanie Szylejko on being recognized as Thrive's Team Member of the Month! Her dedication, positive energy, and willingness to go above and beyond make a real difference for our team and the clients we serve. Please join us in congratulating Stephanie on this well-deserved recognition – thank you for all you do to help Thrive thrive!

BUX-MONT MOTOR CLUB

A MONTHLY CARS AND COFFEE EVENT

JOIN US on **September 12th** for Bux-Mont Motor Club, A Cars & Coffee Event. All ages & pets are welcome - enjoy a beautiful morning with coffee trucks, food trucks, and cool cars.

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
500 Office Center Drive,
Fort Washington, PA 19034

QUESTIONS?

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

Our mission at Thrive is to take the time to learn your personal financial situation and history, so that we can help you develop a personalized retirement strategy. Whether you're just getting started or are ready to retire, our team is here for you every step of the way.

Email

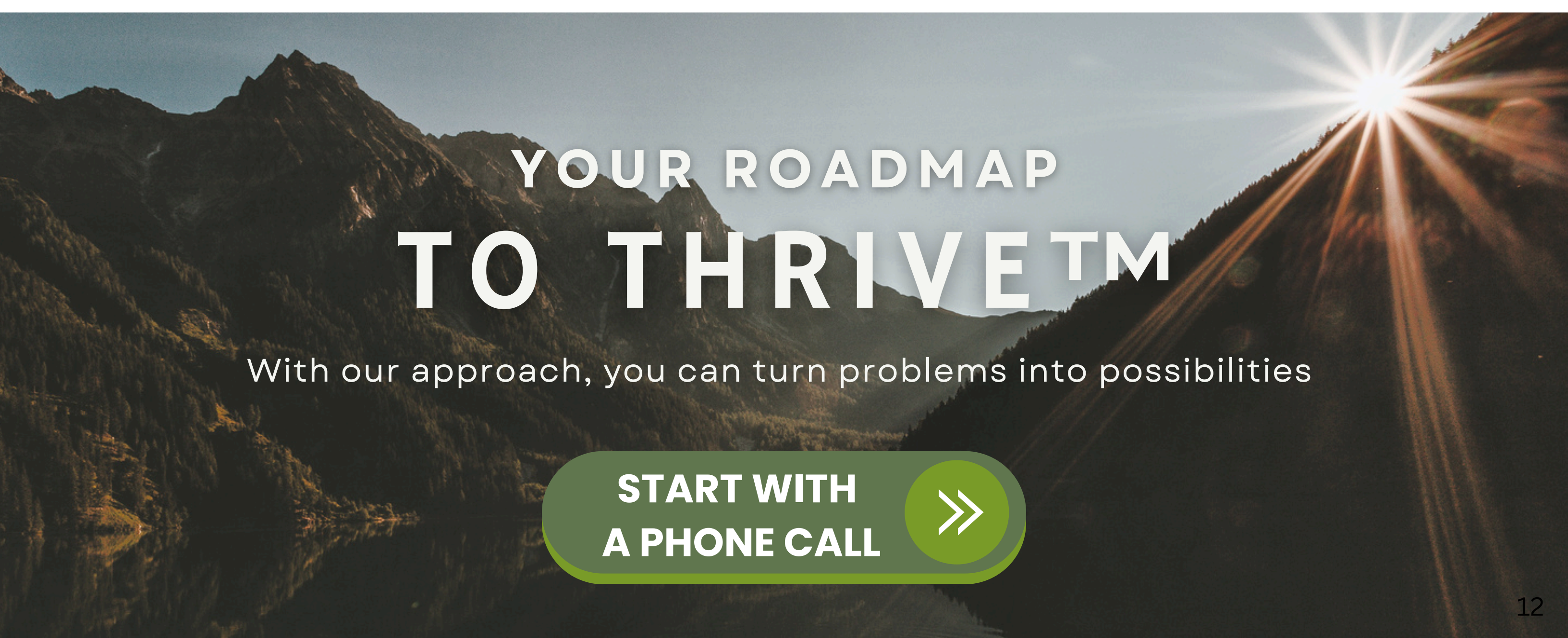
info@thrivefinancialservices.com

Phone Number

(800) 516-5861

Website

www.thrivefinancialservices.com



We are an independent financial services firm helping individuals create retirement strategies using a variety of investment and insurance products to custom suit their needs and objectives. Advisory services offered through Thrive Capital Management, LLC, an SEC Registered Investment Advisory firm. Insurance products and services offered through Thrive Financial Services, LLC. The information contained in this material is given for informational purposes only, and no statement contained herein shall constitute tax, legal or investment advice. The information is not intended to be used as the sole basis for financial decisions, nor should it be construed as advice designed to meet the particular needs of an individual's situation. You should seek advice on legal and tax questions from an independent attorney or tax advisor. Investing involves risk, including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against loss in periods of declining values. None of the information contained on this website shall constitute an offer to sell or solicit any offer to buy a security or any insurance product.
Any references to protection benefits or steady and reliable income streams on this website refer only to fixed insurance products. They do not refer, in any way, to securities or investment advisory products. Annuity guarantees are backed by the financial strength and claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Annuities are insurance products that may be subject to fees, surrender charges and holding periods which vary by insurance company. Annuities are not FDIC insured. The information and opinions contained in any of the material requested from this website are provided by third parties and have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. They are given for informational purposes only and are not a solicitation to buy or sell any of the products mentioned. The information is not intended to be used as the sole basis for financial decisions, nor should it be construed as advice designed to meet the particular needs of an individual's situation.