



WE'RE SAFE. WE'RE SECURE. WE ARE A CREDIT UNION!



**Georgia Florida
United Methodist
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

April 2010

Purpose

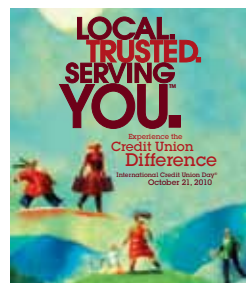
Help Members Achieve
Financial Security

Mission

The Georgia Florida United Methodist Federal Credit Union is a financial cooperative owned by its members to serve their financial needs by providing friendly, quality service and competitive rates while maintaining fiscal soundness.

**Make sure to
read about our
Vehicle Refinance
Special Offer on the
back page of this
newsletter.**

Why 186 Million People Worldwide Choose Credit Unions



On Thursday, October 21, credit union members worldwide will join together to celebrate International Credit Union Day and this year's theme: *Local. Trusted. Serving you.*

Do you remember why you chose Georgia Florida United Methodist FCU to be your financial services provider? It may be among many reasons shared by the 186 million people in 97 countries who have also chosen credit unions, but it most likely has something to do with the common philosophy of people helping people.

This year's theme celebrates the advantages of credit union membership. Value, trust and service are just some of the many benefits of being a credit union member. You are in charge of your money *and* your credit union.

At GA/FL UMFCU, we are proud of our heritage as a cooperative financial services provider and our connection to the more than 54,000 credit unions worldwide. On October 21, we'll join credit unions and their members around the world to celebrate International Credit Union Day in recognition of the benefits those institutions bring to their members.

International Credit Union Day Celebrations to Be Held in Both the Florida and Georgia Offices

Join Us for a Grand Re-Opening of Our Georgia Branch Office

Your Credit Union is observing International Credit Union Day by inviting all members to a Grand Re-Opening of our newly renovated Marietta, Georgia Branch Office. **We'll have plenty of refreshments, a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and a Grand Prize - a Flat Screen TV - for one lucky member.** Plan to join us on Thursday, October 21 during normal business hours as we come together to celebrate Georgia Florida UMFCU's financial strength throughout the years and the proud history of the credit union movement.

Join us for a Celebration of International Credit Union Day in Our Florida Branch Office

Calling all Florida members - Come join us as we celebrate International Credit Union Day at our new Florida Branch office during normal business hours. We're planning to have plenty of refreshments and lots of camaraderie as we come together to enjoy the financial strength of the Credit Union throughout the years and the proud history of the credit union movement.

Special Notice: The Florida Branch Office will be celebrating the Grand Opening of their new office on Wednesday, November 17 during normal business hours. All members are also invited to this event and once again, **we will have plenty of refreshments, a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and a Grand Prize - a Flat Screen TV - for one lucky member.**

Considering Bankruptcy, Call Your Credit Union First! Rise in Bankruptcies Continues

In March of this year, there were 149,268 consumer bankruptcies filed which represented the highest monthly consumer filing total since Congress overhauled the Bankruptcy Code in 2005, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), relying on data from the National Bankruptcy Research Center.

The March filing total represented a 34% increase from the February filing total of 111,693, and a 23% increase from the March 2009 total of 121,413.

The sustained economic pressures of unemployment coupled with high pre-existing debt may have you feeling like you don't have any other options. Maybe you owe several people money, your credit is maxed out, and you are falling deeper into debt, so you start to explore filing for bankruptcy. You thought you never would, but you've heard about it, maybe even someone you know has done it.

Things to Consider When You File Bankruptcy

❖ **What effect will bankruptcy have on my credit?**

Your credit history may already be poor, but keep in mind that a bankruptcy will remain on your credit report for up to 10 years. Of course, credit can be re-established.

❖ **Will my coworkers, neighbors, and friends know that I have filed for bankruptcy?**

Though employers and landlords will not be sent notices or otherwise directly informed about your bankruptcy, anyone can find out that you filed because bankruptcy is a public record. If a potential employer does a credit check, bankruptcy filings will show up on that report, which can seem like bad credit is on your record even years after the bankruptcy was filed.

❖ **What does bankruptcy cover?**

- Credit card debts
- Medical bills
- Unsecured loans

❖ **What types of debts are not erased with bankruptcy?**

- Student loans
- Alimony and support
- Debts from fraud
- Drunk driving compensation
- Tax bills

Bankruptcy should only be used when the other alternatives have failed. When minimum monthly bills are more than the family can pay, the first step is to contact the creditors and ask for a payment plan. If that doesn't provide enough breathing room, it's time to contact a qualified credit counseling agency. They can negotiate the interest rates down.

Neither of those steps will reduce the amount owed. It will only cut interest rates and create a more livable payment plan.

If you are considering filing for bankruptcy, call Georgia Florida UMFCU first! We're here to help you sort out your finances and make sense of how best to get your financial house in order. We know how difficult it must seem to members when monthly debts keep mounting and you feel like your monthly income will never be enough. We know how to steer you in the right direction because members are our **#1 Priority** in good times and in bad times.



It's Never Too Late to RETHINK Your Finances

What if your VISA Credit Card had the best rate possible? Would you switch? **RETHINK VISA at 8.9% APR* Now**

With the holidays just around the corner, now may be the time to **SWITCH** to your Credit Union's VISA credit card. Believe it or not, we offer one of the best VISA credit card rates in town! Don't wait a day longer to apply so you can make those purchases for the holidays.

With money tight these days and budgeting more important than ever, you may also want to consolidate all of your high rate credit card balances on to one card. Getting all of your credit card debt in one place makes a lot of sense. Also, with one credit card payment instead of spreading your hard-earned money among several credit cards, you'll be able to pay down your debt faster with a lower rate card while getting your financial house in order.

Don't wait. Call us today and we'll help you stay merry these holidays and at the same time, consolidate your credit card balances. This New Year you'll already have one resolution started - beginning your journey to a debt-free financial life!

*Annual Percentage Rate

Mortgage Interest Rates Are Continuing at Historic Lows. Is It Time to Reconsider Your Options? RETHINK Mortgages Now

With interest rates still at record lows, now is a good time to take a look at your current mortgage. Here are a couple of things to consider:

Are you thinking about buying your first home or upgrading to a larger residence? You've heard it before... it's a buyer's market!

Interest rates and home prices are at the lowest they've been in forty years; couple that with the excess of homes currently on the market and you've got the ideal buying opportunity for those who can swing it. Even in today's challenging economic times, buying or upgrading your home remains one of the most beneficial investments

you can make, providing you with long-term equity and substantial tax savings.



Are you wondering how much money you could save each month by refinancing?

By refinancing your current first mortgage loan, you have the potential to save money each month by lowering your current mortgage rate—particularly if you have an Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM)—or by extending the length of time of your existing loan (up to 30 years). Give us a call with your current interest rate and monthly mortgage payment and we'll let you know if we are able to lower your current rate, making refinancing a smart move.

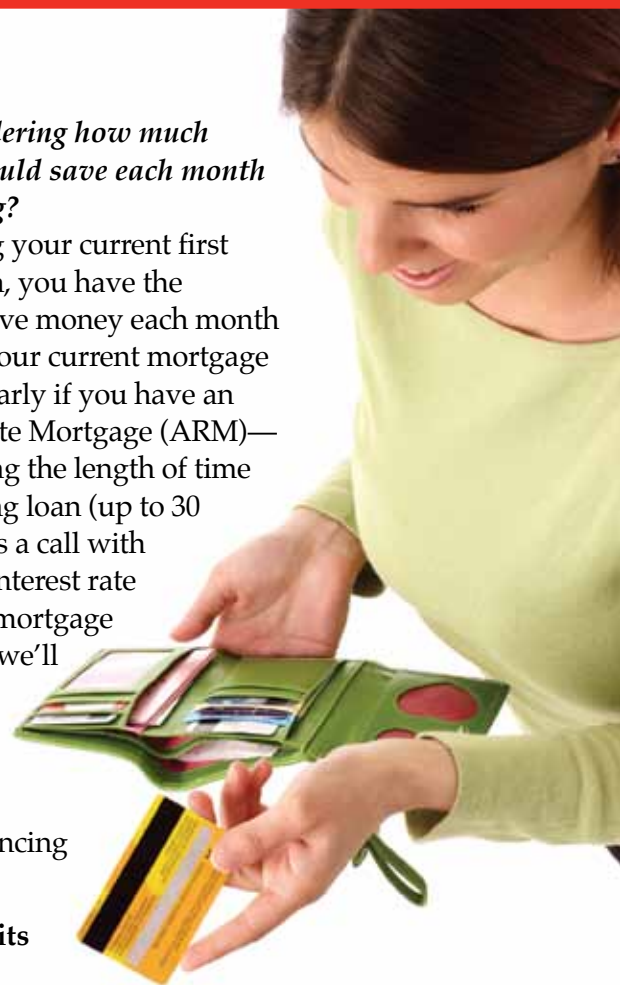
Added Benefits for Georgia

Florida United Methodist FCU Members:

Whether you're in the market to buy or refinance, Georgia Florida United Methodist FCU has the competitive rates and flexible terms to make it happen. We offer a variety of financing options with as little as **5% down, Fixed & Adjustable Rates up to 30 years, free Prequalification and same day approval**. The online application is quick and easy to use, or if you prefer, we'll take the application over the phone. Best of all, **experienced loan officers** take the time to answer all of your questions and walk you through the mortgage process one step at a time.

All Credit Union members will have the added protection of our closing attorney reviewing your intent-to-purchase contract, **all at no charge**. Finally, Georgia Florida United Methodist Credit Union members are **exempt from paying the intangible tax**, saving \$3 for every \$1,000.00 borrowed, for properties purchased within the state of Georgia. For example, on a \$200,000 mortgage loan, this equates to a savings of over \$600.00!

Get started by applying online at www.unitedmethodistcu.com or give us a call at 1-800-425-6949 today.





RETHINK Your Auto Loan NOW and Save Money!

The economy continues to be on a very slow recovery. Many members like you are looking for ways to cut monthly expenses in order to manage their monthly household budgets. That's why your Credit Union is offering this great way to save money on your monthly car loan payments. Don't wait. Read below to find out how you can save money now:

- ❖ Starting now and continuing until December 31, 2010, refinance your vehicle loan at another financial institution with a loan from your Credit Union and you may get as much as 3%* off the interest rate you pay now!
- ❖ Did you recently buy a vehicle and finance it somewhere other than the credit union? Now is your chance to refinance with Georgia Florida United Methodist FCU and SAVE!
- ❖ Georgia Florida United Methodist FCU will reduce the rate you pay on the vehicle loan you have at another financial institution up to 3%* but no less than our lowest rate of 3.99% APR**!

And, if you're looking to purchase a new or used vehicle right now, be sure to talk to us **FIRST!**

Call the Georgia Office today at (800) 282-9368 or the Florida Office at (866) 687-2136 or email us at www.unitedmethodistcu.com. This offer ends October 31, 2010.

*The 3% reduction applies to new loans only. All loan approvals are subject to normal underwriting guidelines.

**APR=Annual Percentage Rate. All rates subject to change without notice.

Open a Christmas Club Account Today

Now's the time to open a Christmas Club Account for Christmas 2011 and save for that special time of year. At Georgia Florida UMFCU, Christmas Club Accounts run from November 1, 2010 through the first Monday of November 2011 and have these added benefits:

- ❖ A competitive dividend rate paid quarterly
- ❖ No minimum balance required
- ❖ Online access to your account so you can watch your savings grow
- ❖ Payroll deduction for convenient and systematic deposits
- ❖ Deposits can also be made in person at either branch office or through the mail



Do it today so that when the holidays are approaching next year, you'll have peace of mind knowing exactly how you'll make everyone happy during the Christmas season.



**Georgia Florida
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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Credit Union Calendar

Closed

Monday, October 11
Columbus Day

Thursday & Friday, November 25
and 26

Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, December 24
Christmas

Friday, December 31
New Year's Eve

Offices:

Georgia Office

1991 Lower Roswell Road
Marietta, GA 30068

Mailing Address:

P O Box 6448
Marietta, GA 30065-0448

Phone:

770-565-3794 • 800-282-9368

Fax:

770-565-3821

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450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33815

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