



## Valued Member, Start the New Year Off Right by Reducing Your Debt!

It's a new year, and what time could be better to refocus your financial strategies, especially regarding debt? Using debt can be a good thing, but it becomes a problem when you have too much of it, have the wrong kinds or when its presence causes undue anxiety or bad behavior. You need to make sure you are controlling your debt and not the other way around.

Here are some tips on debt management to help you start 2010 off on the right foot:



### **Accumulate debt for long-term benefit, not short-term pleasure.**

Borrow money for things that provide lasting value. Borrowing for college costs, particularly in a time when jobs are difficult to find, can be a smart, long-term investment that will help you secure a better career. Charging an extravagant vacation on your credit card is probably not a good use of debt.

**Eliminate high-interest borrowing.** If your existing debt has a high interest rate, transfer it to a lower rate loan or credit card. United Methodist FCU loans are a great low-rate option to help you reduce your debt and save money in interest you pay. [Click here](#) to check the rates of our credit cards, home loans and other loan products to find out if you can save money by transferring your loan balances.

**Pay down your debt.** This can be a difficult step for many people. Incurring interest charges is not a good use of your money. If you owe money on multiple accounts, select the account with the lowest balance and focus on paying that off first. Set an amount higher than the minimum payment, like \$300, and pay that amount every month until the balance is zero. Then take that \$300 and add that to the minimum payment of the next lowest balance you owe to pay that account balance down, and so on. With discipline and patience, you will become debt free!

**Looking for more smart financial ideas?** United Methodist FCU can help! Give us a call at 1-800-245-0433 for more information on how to prepare for the New Year.



## Valued Member, Has Holiday Debt Left You Wishing You Had Planned Ahead?

Don't make the same mistake in 2010! Open a [Christmas Club account](#) now and start saving up for next Christmas.

Your Christmas Club account will allow you to designate a specific monthly transfer amount from another account or add to your club account any time during the year. You'll be slowly saving all year long, so you can really celebrate during the holidays. Plus, you'll enjoy a higher paying dividend than that of our regular savings account!

**Opening a Christmas Club account is easy!** Call us at 1-800-245-0433 or [login to eBranch](#) to sign up and get on the right track for a great 2010 Holiday Season.

## Valued Member, Don't Let Holiday Debt Burst Your New Year's Bubble!

If you were left with high interest rate debt from your holiday expenses, a [UMFCU VISA card](#) can help!

Right now, you could qualify to receive **0% APR\* for 6 months** on all balance transfers, cash advances and purchases to your UMFCU Platinum VISA account. This incredible rate means you'll be able to relax knowing you can pay down your debt over the next few months without paying outrageous interest on your balance.



- Transfer a balance from another credit card to lower your monthly payments
- Take out a cash advance to cover expenses
- Pay bills and accrue no interest for 6 months

**Call us at 1-800-245-0433 today** to find out more about this great rate, and start saving with a UMFCU Platinum VISA account today!

\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates as of January 5, 2010. Rates are subject to change and are based on borrower's credit history, credit score and available credit. Special offer available for a limited time only.

## Holiday Closures

Just a reminder, all our branch offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- **Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday** - Monday, January 18th
- **Washington's Birthday** - Monday, February 15th

Additionally, the following branches will also be closed on the dates listed below:

- **Friday, January 15th (Arizona branch only)**
- **Friday, January 29th (Maine branch only)**
- **Monday, February 1st (Maine branch only)**

### United Methodist Federal Credit Union

1-800-245-0433

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