

Message Pay

Message Pay allows you to use your account number, or your debit or credit card from a different financial institution to make a deposit or loan payment to your First Federal account. This is an easy way to make payments from the convenience of your own home!

See more details at
firstfedcu.com/messagepay.

Annual Meeting Report



At the recent annual meeting, three directors were each re-elected to their positions on the Board of Directors. Elected to serve three year terms were Mike Pickering, Tony Kendall and Judy Vondracek. Incumbent board members include Doug Netolicky, Linda Edwards, Mary Lawrence, Jim Maher, Greg Schluter, and James Schluter. These volunteers will serve all First Federal members and help set the vision and policies of the credit union. The board elected Mike Pickering, Chair; Doug Netolicky, Vice-Chair; and Mary Lawrence, Secretary.

Your Money is Secure With Us!

Your deposits with First Federal are safe and fully insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) to at least \$250,000 per account owner in each ownership category. We understand that your deposits represent your hard-earned money, and we take the responsibility of protecting your funds very seriously. We operate with your best interests in mind to ensure that your deposits are safe and secure, and we remain committed to maintaining the highest level of financial integrity.

Community Involvement Award Winners

Two employees were recently recognized for their efforts in our 2022 Community Involvement program. Tracy Yordi was recently presented with the 2022 Volunteer Hours Award as the First Federal employee that contributed the most volunteer hours in 2022. Joni Rizzio was recognized as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year for her contributions in the community. Each award-recipient named a favorite cause to receive a \$500.00 contribution from First Federal Credit Union. Congratulations to Tracy and Joni for making our community a better place!



2022 Volunteer Hours Award
Tracy Yordi



2022 Volunteer of the Year
Joni Rizzio

Employee Spotlight

Joni Rizzio

Hometown:
Fairfield, IA

Education:
BA Elementary Education, Buena Vista College

Career Highlights:
Started in banking as a teller, then assorted jobs while raising son Gabe, returned to banking and now a personal banker with FFCU!

Family:
Husband Steve; son, Gabriel and wife Naomi, grandson Oliver!! Stepson Adam and wife Claire

Mortgage Advice

It's natural to think of rising interest rates as all bad news for homebuyers. After all, higher rates mean higher monthly payments when taking on the same amount of mortgage debt.

But that doesn't mean there's no silver lining to buying when rates are high. There's likely to be less buyer competition for the home you want, plus there's the potential that the higher rates will provide downward pressure on sales prices.

And, remember, you can always refinance when rates come down again provided that your income and credit score remain strong. Or you may even want to consider our seven-year fixed/arm to start with so that you can potentially lower your rate over time without having to take out a new loan and paying closing costs.

The bottom line? If it's time to move, don't let higher interest rates put your home buying plans on hold.

Call or email today to find a mortgage solution that is right for you!



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Back at the Ballpark!

Spring has arrived – and it's time for baseball! Free Screen Thursday returns to the Cedar Rapids Kernels with a new twist: iPads! At select Thursday home games we will be giving out three free 50" Big Screen TVs!!! On other select Thursdays, three iPads will be given away! Stop by our table on the main concourse right after entering the ballpark to pick up a ticket for your chance to win. If you're planning a trip to the ballpark, stop by our Cedar Rapids office at 425 1st Avenue SW to see if any tickets are available for a Kernels game. We have four seats for each home game available on a first come, first serve basis. See you at the ballpark!

In the Community

First Federal employees Nicole, Melissa, Jill, Tracy, Chuck and Nick tried their hand at bowling in the 2023 Bowl For Kids Sake event. First Federal and the employees contributed over \$1,300 and had a great time supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters and their wonderful work creating a brighter future for children!



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Tom Chalstrom



President & CEO

Tom.Chalstrom@firstfedcu.com

With the arrival of Spring, Opening Day of baseball season has always been something I have looked forward to. In fact, I think Opening Day should be a national holiday! Baseball – the original national pastime – has always had its own traditions that have been handed down for decades. However, this year new rules are being used that are meant to 'update' baseball to today's viewing preferences. The rules are designed to create more movement and keep the attention on the field. I find it fascinating and am anxious to see how the changes are received. I compare it to our business – the basic services we have offered for decades: savings accounts and personal loans – have to be supplemented with products and services that our members want in today's economy. It's not acceptable to say 'but we have always done it this way' – we need to enact new approaches to reflect our member's preferences. Later this Spring, we will update our website to make it easier to navigate and discover new information. This Summer, we will also introduce an update to our online banking site to again make it easier to conduct business from wherever it is most convenient. Just like baseball, we have been around a long time – and we also intend to keep making the changes that will make our fans keep coming back to our 'ballpark'. Play ball!!!

As always, stop in and say hi, introduce yourself or even comment on what you want First Federal to do for you!

