Equities continued their winning streak in August—marking the fifth straight month of gains—amid improving investor sentiment bolstered by ongoing stimulus, better than expected quarterly earnings, and optimism around a vaccine. In the US, the S&P 500 Index returned 7.13%, gaining in all but five trading days, ending the month at 3,500. Non-US equities benefited from ongoing weakness in the dollar with the MSCI EAFE and MSCI Emerging Markets indexes up 5.1% and 2.2%, respectively.

In fixed income, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, in a widely-expected move, said the central bank would seek to achieve average inflation of 2%; following periods of inflation below 2%. In response, inflation expectations rose, leading to an uptick in global yields; US and German 10-year yields increased 17 and 13 basis points, respectively. The US yield curve steepened with the 30-year yield increasing 27 basis points, ending the month at 1.46%.

Major Index Returns for August:

- S&P 500: 7.1%
- MSCI EAFE Index: 5.1%
- MSCI EM (Emerging Markets): 2.2%
- Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index: -0.8%

**ITIF Valuation:** $821.2 Million