

## Minute for Mission—September 17, 2023

Those of you who watch the PBS News Hour will recognize the name of one of the co-anchors of the program...Amna Nawaz (*pronounced "Nah-vaze"*.) At a commencement ceremony this past May, she told her audience, "Hope is the bridge between what is and what will be." For many Americans though, hope is only a memory. The trouble is the medical debt they're carrying. Medical bills leave too many Americans overwhelmed and devastated. Their recovery from debt is often deferred...and it's rarely a choice. Getting sick or being involved in an accident can start a family down the road to homelessness, bankruptcy and a loss of hope.

The churches of John Knox Presbytery...all 55 of them...have been invited to rebuild hope by raising money to remove medical debt for as many people as possible. Every dollar received will remove at least \$100 in medical debt. One recent recipient wrote to express his gratitude this way: "Thank you for this blessing. It could not have come at a more opportune moment. I have been unemployed for the past seven months due to a work injury that has really placed a financial burden on my family. Thank you for helping to lessen that burden."

Offerings can be placed in the plates this morning. Please make your check out to our church and mark it "RIP Medical Debt". An online giving option can be found on the Presbytery's website, [jknox.org](http://jknox.org). By participating in this ministry, we will be helping families reestablish a better credit score and give them a chance to get a new start. Together, we can unleash the power of hope!