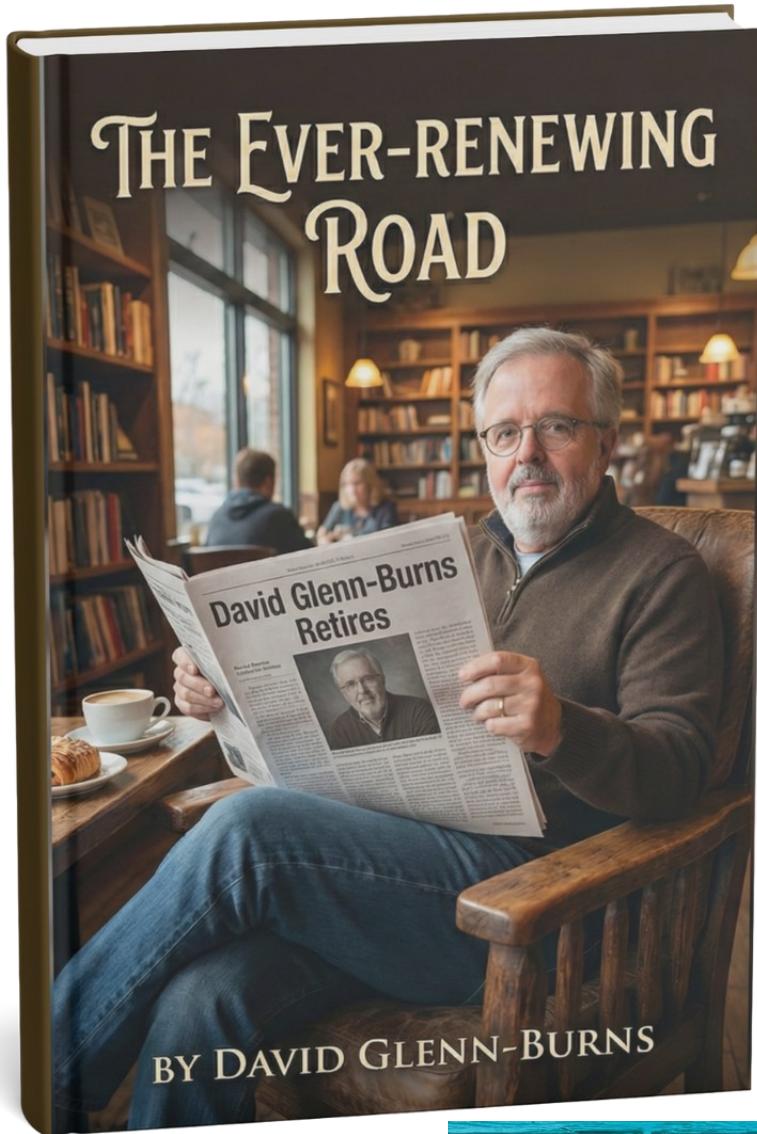


This is not a real book, but this is a real announcement...



#### WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING:

"Enormously enthusiastic!" raves Jane Strike of **Business Managers' Magazine**. "Some may say aggressively supportive! A lover of music, food, new ideas, Jesus, and all human beings. Through his care and encouragement, he makes an impression on everyone he meets. We would all be wise to watch his everyday example of how to love as Jesus commands. He is a treasure for the ages."

"An oldie but a goodie, inexplicably remaining to be current and relevant across the decades" says Abbie Chronister of **The Zillennial Review**

Robin Kime of **The Northern View** exclaims, "Unlimited in care, humor, and ideas. Dave's love for all he meets is evident in his words and deeds, in his timely and poignant insights, and his unwavering support. A privilege to serve in ministry with him, his impact and legacy at ThreeHouse will be cherished forever."

"He sneaks up on you, it's quite sudden; and suddenly you are a part of Dave's "family" here at UNI, and he is a part of yours." Says Ava D. of **Worldly Wonder**.

## Interview

We recently sat down for an interview with Pastor Dave in his well-appointed office. All around the space was a menagerie of small gifts, keepsakes, and pictures falling all over themselves. Papers were piled high across the desk like uneven glaciers precariously threatening to crumble into the sea. Chairs reposed in an incoherent circle, left over from some impromptu chat with students. We decided to start with a soft question:

On May 6, 1996, the body of a former CIA Director was found washed up on a riverbank in southern Maryland eight days after his disappearance. Did this event have anything to do with your decision to change locations, change jobs, and grow a beard?

**I can't really confirm or deny it! If you look at my 41 years of pastoral ministry, punctuated by stints as a failed hog farmer, an ambulance driver who missed**

**Continued next pg...**



(continued from p.1) some call responses because my socks were inside out, a trombone player in several bands/ensembles or an elected official on the County Extension Council, it might be difficult to know whether my true calling was as a campus minister or a CIA officer!

I see, I see... so you insist you ARE a pastor. If that's really the case, which instructor or class made the deepest mark on you either in college or seminary?

**My first choice would be Paul Stopenhagen, who was the pastor of my home church when I went to Bowling Green State University. He had been a campus minister for most of his ministry career and helped open my mind and eyes to a much wider, larger world than what I had known until then.**

**Second is a World History/Third World Histories class at Bowling Green. That guy smoked in the classroom (could do that in the 70's apparently). There I learned to look for who has the wealth/power when studying history and to look for the biases of the authors. I first realized that our American "exceptionalism" attitude greatly controlled how history was taught. We looked at/read authors from other cultures and locations and I realized that what I had been taught was not necessarily the only story or way to understand history!**

**And a third professor was a famous New Testament scholar at Garrett-Evangelical who loved to sail on Lake Michigan. He would randomly show up to our dorm/dining center and invite students to come with him and learn to sail. I didn't do it and I have regretted it ever since!**

Aside from the fact that UNI has cannons pointed at exactly one singular building and it's ThreeHouse, what has troubled you about UNI, and what have you loved?

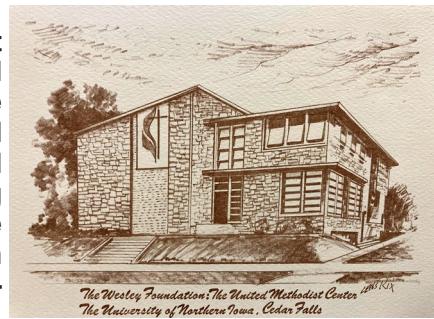
**I loved being a student back in the 70's. When I was invited to serve here at UNI, I discovered that in many ways UNI felt a lot like Bowling Green. Both were strong in education training. Both had excellent music programs, especially the Jazz programs. (I loved that I could play in a jazz band at each school!) And both were among the windiest campuses I've been around! Secondly, I have admired how students have responded when they've discovered our "Home Away from Home" or "Radical Hospitality" approach to ministry/campus ministry, especially in contrast to other campus ministries which provide easier answers and have larger**

numbers and flashier leaders. It troubles me that there are fewer places around campus where students are encouraged to ask big enough questions. Similarly troubling is that it seems like the trends are towards degrees that are marketable/employable for grads and reducing the offerings that are encouraging thinking, asking questions, learning to be part of a larger community. I am troubled by the pressures on the faculty and staff to do more with less support from the state. That ultimately hurts the student experience. I have consistently admired the faculty, staff and administrators who have worked diligently to offer an outstanding experience in the face of some big challenges!



You've seen some challenges, too. When the funding fell away, what kept you from walking away?

Truthfully, I don't know. When I came close at times, something would happen that was a clear sign to keep going! The business manager at the time, Jane Strike, observed that so often something or someone would appear at just the right time. She would make a certain gesture that affirmed that moment. And equally honestly, I was determined to show those who had chosen to unfund/underfund campus ministry, that they were making a terrible mistake! The general model of the Wesley Foundations, Lutheran Student Centers, Westminster Houses, and other campus ministries at public universities was a great platform from which to do ministry years ago at their inceptions. We, however, were convinced that, with the modifications to the original model that we've implemented at ThreeHouse, that that model is still viable and vital: to be the connection between the church and campus and community is a sacred place and time



In 2009 there was a big storm that severely damaged the building, and sent our Wesley Foundation into 'exile' (a little storefront). It was a tumultuous time. Likewise, you interact a lot with students and young adults whose lives are in transition. How do you respond to a person when their spiritual/emotional roof is blown off and the rain pours in?

Sitting with students whose lives are in transition has proven to be among the most sacred parts of campus ministry. After first hearing my colleague, and former ThreeHouse Board member Anna Blaedel say this blessing, I adopted it for ThreeHouse. I still think it is the best summary of what I try to do when listening with students and community persons in crisis. Anna said, and we put it on a sign in our building, "You are

# GATHER. ENGAGE. GROW.

loved. You are enough. You can do hard things. We need each other". I have only grown more convinced that the way to most authentically be with a person in crisis or in general, is to reflect love, like Jesus. I have found it tempting to think it might be more about the words I use, but over the years, I've tried to model with my values and time and actions these four statements.

What are the top three birthday pranks that have been pulled on you at ThreeHouse?

Honestly, I can't remember there being any birthday pranks! Do you know something that I don't know? Maybe after all these years, I've misinterpreted all the "actions of appreciation" that I've *discovered*.



The year  
EVERYTHING  
got wrapped in Dave's  
office.  
Desk. Shelves. Chairs.



Pastor Dave is retiring effective summer 2026.

Ok, here's another top-three question then. Top three student trips?

Three trips to New York City, one trip each to Washington DC, Miami, Memphis, Minneapolis, Detroit and Denver. I can't choose a top three!

One of the trips to NYC was at the same time that ICE raided the Postville meat packing facility. While we were traveling by Amtrak to Penn Station to study immigration and ministry issues, we were stopped near the Canadian border in New York. Our group of 28 students was about 50% International students and the whole time we were stopped I was praying that none of our group would be detained. If that were to happen now, I would be even more nervous!

Our first trip to NYC was the spring after 9-11. Some of us got in on protests in Times Square. When we went to the Twin Cities, we stayed in a facility on Lake Street that a few years later would be in the middle of the reactions/responses to the George Floyd murder. In Detroit, we worked and stayed in the area of Detroit that experienced race riots in the 60's. Then to see the evidence of redlining, including a concrete wall literally dividing areas into the "white" area and the "black" area. In all of our trips the community that was formed among people who did not really know each other before going was the most important part.

The important learning that took place on each of those trips was deeply moving.

Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, Biden, Trump... Glenn-Burns? Is this your next step? (because we would buy THE BIGGEST block of cheese!)

I don't want to be a President in that line, but I do like the idea of Big Block of Cheese Day! I look forward to learning things in retirement that I have never even considered before. ↗

**Did You Know?  
You can give online!  
Threehouse.org/donate or use this QR Code!**



**Your donation does more than keep the lights on. Because of you, we can:**

- Take students on faith-based retreats, to create community, volunteer, and deepen their faith;
  - Offer a variety of programs to meet student needs and interests;
  - Provide resources and a safe, brave space for students who are searching;
- Embrace students for who they are, and remind them that they are Beloved Children of God.

# A few fall pictures from ThreeHouse



Student Leadership Folk.  
(most of them)



Trans Day of Remembrance Vigil



Herman the table-top dancing man! (and abbie)



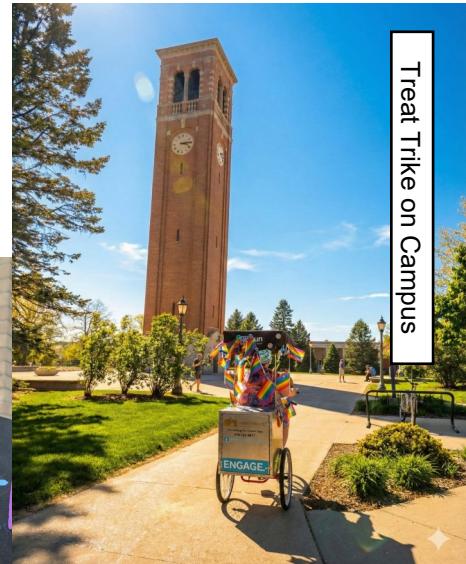
Fall Retreat!



Have we EVER brought  
enough candy?  
Homecoming 2025



GreenHouse Meeting



Treat Trike on Campus

Halloween saved by Lego Superman!



Camouflage!



It's warm & cozy here, come inside.



Thanks Paul!!!

## Give

Our funding comes from a network of kind and generous individuals like you, who know that it is important for students to understand that they are beloved children of God, there is a safe space for deep soul searching, and where they can create community, volunteer, and enrich their faith.

GIVE ONLINE:  
[THREEHOUSE.ORG/DONATE](http://THREEHOUSE.ORG/DONATE) OR USE VENMO-->



25th annual Block Party

# ThreeHouse Celebrations

## ***Free Store Thank You!***

One of the first things we did this year was hold our Free Store for international students to come pick up furniture and other household items the Monday before classes started. We had 4 pickup trucks and 12 volunteers here helping move furniture to apartments and hopefully making some spaces homier.

Thank you to our AWESOME Volunteers:

- **Brad Braley**
- **Michelle Burns**
- **Roger & Julie DeSloover**
- **Doris & Lynn Lovell**
- **Fayeth Walton**
- **Students: Dennis, Joel, Nischal, Meadow, and Gavik**



To the Team at ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministry,

There are moments in life when words hardly feel enough, but I'll try anyway because your kindness deserves to be acknowledged.

Since I arrived in Cedar Falls as an International student, I've experienced many things; growth, struggle, loneliness, hope. But one thing that's stayed constant has been the warmth and care I've received from the ThreeHouse community. You've created a space where people like me far from home and family can feel seen, supported, and human. You didn't just offer furniture, winter coats, or a meal when times were hard. You offered dignity.

You checked in when no one else thought to ask how we were holding up. You provided comfort when it was needed most, without asking for anything in return. You extended community when isolation threatened to swallow us whole.

But what really stays with me is that this wasn't just about me. You've shown up for so many other international students, students who, like me, arrived in this country with more questions than answers, more worries than resources. Through your actions, you've made Cedar Falls feel less foreign. You've helped us breathe a little easier.

Your ministry has been more than a building or a program. It's been a lifeline. And I want you to know that the impact you've had on my life and the lives of many others runs deep. Thank you for reminding us that even in unfamiliar places, love can still look like home.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
N.

Now beginning a PhD program in Virginia

# Yes, I would like to be involved with ThreeHouse:



- I will mail my gift with this attached form
- I will give online at <https://ThreeHouse.kindful.com/>
- I will give monthly through automatic withdrawal and/or transfer of securities/stocks
- I would like to support a special project: \_\_\_\_\_
- I will keep in mind ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries in my estate plans
- I am interested in volunteering with student programming
- I will pray for the ThreeHouse community, and students, and ministries all around the world

## Please update my information:

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email \_\_\_\_\_

Years I was at ThreeHouse \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please make checks payable to **ThreeHouse** and mail to:

**ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries**

**2422 College Street**

**Cedar Falls, IA 50613**

## I know someone else who should get this newsletter:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone? \_\_\_\_\_

Email? \_\_\_\_\_

Further details? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Why am I receiving this? Our records indicate you are a former/current participant or supporter. Please let us know if you would like to update your records with us. Thank you!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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