



ARISE CHURCH

AI Profile | NextGen Student Ministry | Update 01

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About NextGen Ministry

Arise Church calls its student and young adult ministry NextGen Ministry. NextGen encompasses middle school students, high school students, college students, and young adults. The Wednesday evening student gathering is designed for students in grades 6–12. Middle school and high school students meet together for portions of the evening, with small groups separated by age.

Wednesday Student Gatherings

Wednesday meetings ordinarily take place at the Arise Church building. Students may arrive at 6:00 p.m.; planned programming begins at 6:30 p.m. and concludes at 8:00 p.m. The evening typically includes time to connect, food or snacks, games, interactive biblical teaching, age-specific small-group discussion, prayer requests, group prayer, and additional community-building activities. Off-site gatherings may be held on selected dates.

Third Sunday Community Activities

On third Sundays, students are invited to worship together during the church's second Sunday service and then participate in a group social activity. Activities vary and may include mini golf, an arcade, a meal and movie, or summer pool activities. These gatherings emphasize friendship and community rather than a separate teaching session. Details are communicated to students and families as plans are finalized.

Ministry Leadership

David and Kathy Muller lead the adult volunteer team. The ministry works with Pastor Buck, Associate Pastor of Teaching and Connections, who serves as the pastoral point of contact for student ministry. Pastor Buck participates in Wednesday gatherings, teaching, and student activities. The volunteer team is also overseen by a church deacon.

Visiting for the First Time

Students do not need to register in advance to visit the Wednesday gathering. A parent or guardian completes a new-student information form, including basic information and emergency contact details, before leaving a child for the first time. Kathy Muller helps new families with first contact, follow-up, and the Wednesday sign-in process. Families may also begin by contacting an Arise pastor.

Adult Volunteers and Safety

Adult student ministry leaders undergo background checks. Volunteers are expected to be regular attenders at Arise for at least one month; they are encouraged to attend a new-attender meeting or meet with a pastor before beginning service. Church membership is not a prerequisite for volunteering.

Communication With Parents

Arise holds an annual fall parent meeting to review upcoming student ministry plans and required paperwork. Families also receive quarterly email updates on what students have been learning and doing. Adult leaders communicate with parents individually during arrival, pickup, and regular church activities.

Participation in the Life of Arise

NextGen students are encouraged to engage in the broader church community. Opportunities described by leadership include serving in children's ministry alongside parents, supervised service in sensory or special-needs spaces at larger events, worship production and technical teams, occasional participation in the Sunday worship band, community service projects during Serve Sunday, and attendance at Arise U discipleship workshops. Activities and eligibility may vary by age and event.

Purpose and Discipleship

The student ministry's stated aim is: "Disciples of Christ who make disciples of Christ who make disciples of Christ." NextGen seeks to help young people move from children's ministry toward a mature, personally owned faith; build relationships; invite their peers to follow Christ; and participate fully in the life and mission of Arise Church.

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