

Article for United

My name is Samantha Bronson and I am the new Director of Children's and Youth Ministries! I am so thankful and grateful that I have the opportunity to serve at an inclusive and God-loving church like Columbine United Church. Originally, I am from Midland, Texas where my family still lives. For college, I went to Baylor University in Waco, Texas. There I studied Child and Family Studies with a focus on Child Development and Family Systems. After that, I stayed at Baylor's seminary, George W. Truett Theological Seminary and got my Masters of Divinity with a concentration in theology this past spring.

I am married to my best friend, Luke Bronson, who is from San Diego, California. He and I met at Baylor and got married in 2019. Soon after, we got our miniature Goldendoodle, Indiana, "Indy". He is just as adventurous as his namesake—Indiana Jones. Luke is a new volunteer for the youth group and Indy keeps "asking" to participate in youth and children's activities!

With the uncertainty that has accompanied the year 2020, we are really hoping to create a safe, fun, and welcoming atmosphere where the youth of CUC can bring their big ideas, deep questions, and exciting and unique personalities! We will begin meeting weekly on September 13th to go over the book "We Make the Road by Walking" by Brian McLaren. However, we will put a twist on it, let's see how our stories of faith relate to God as God relates to us, how we relate to world, how we relate to one another, and how we relate and understand ourselves. I am excited to dive into these topics and to have FUN with the youth!

Children's ministry this month is all about connecting as a family. Part of my job, is making sure that parents and caregivers are equipped to have conversations about faith in a fun, meaningful way. We will be doing a newsletter that coincides with the church's study of "We Make the Road by Walking" by Brian McLaren. These will include how to talk to your children and each other about the stories of our faith; and they will include videos and activities for your families! In addition to empowering your families at home, we will be offering times for you to gather with other families for fun and games.

I look forward to getting to know each of you, even if it means seeing half of your face or seeing you on a screen! I am praying for you and your family during this season. Please feel free to reach out about anything!