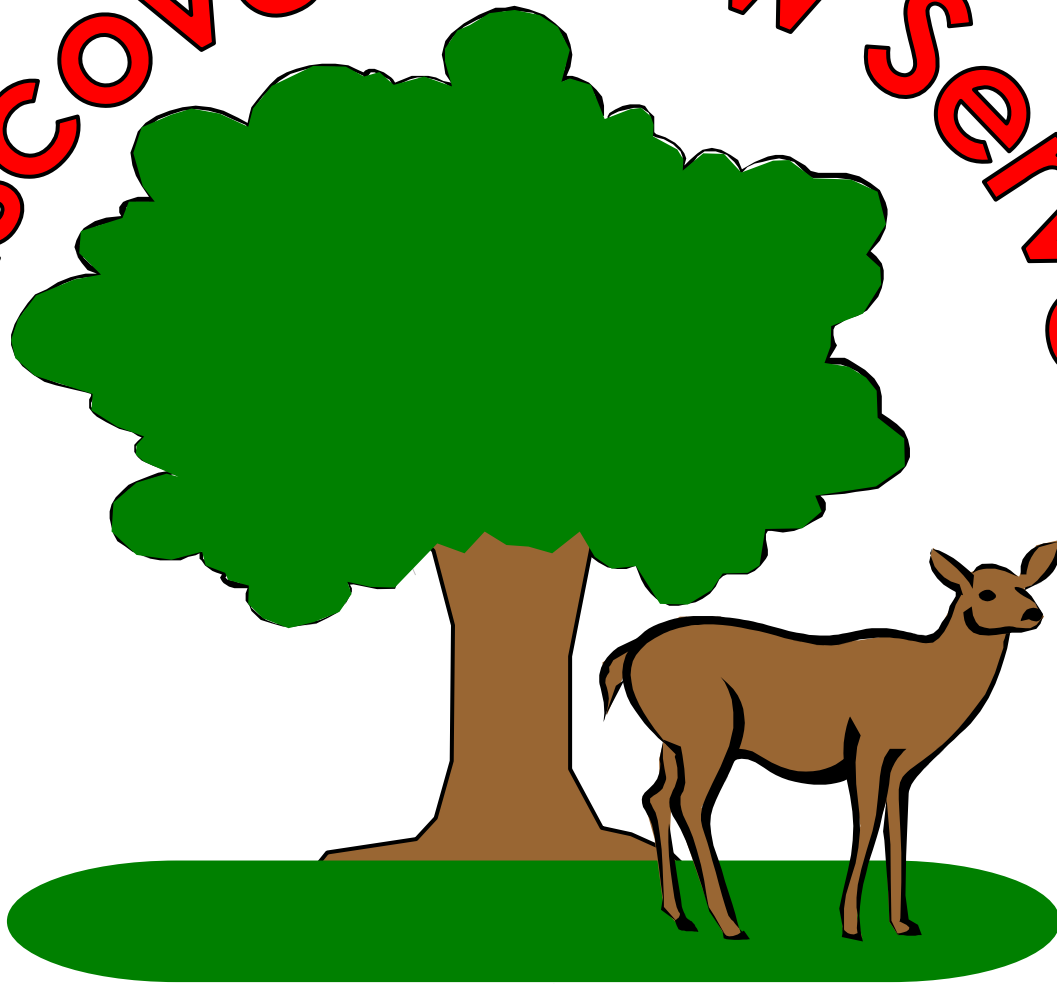


Discover Grow Serve



Judson Collins Center



United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center

Judson Collins is a place where children, youth, and adults **discover** who they are in the context of God's love, **grow** in their knowledge, awareness and reflection of that love, and respond to God's call to **serve** their congregation, their community, and their world.

This articulation of the mission is a reflection of the legacy of the Judson Collins name, the natural gifts of the site, and the recognition of the meaningful experiences of many persons throughout the history of Judson Collins Center.

Discover

First, the marsh and lake reflect the ministry of Discovery. It is the meaning of our baptism: discovering who we are in the context of God's love for the world and for us. The great Love of God is extended to us long before we are able to grasp it, even in our infancy. The marsh is a nursery teeming with new life. It is a place of abundance. Even when our lives are new, we are surrounded by the love of God.

The lake holds the waters of our baptism, reminding us that we are always surrounded by the love of God. Camp can be a place where persons become aware of the love of God for the first time. It can be a significant resource for congregations as they reach out into the world and introduce children, youth, families, and adults to God's love.

Grow

Second, the farm reminds us of growth. All life must be cared for, tended, and nurtured. Just as the nursery is only the beginning of life, so Baptism is just the beginning of our life in faith. We are invited and encouraged to grow in our relationship to God at camp.

Serve

Third, the legacy of Judson Collins himself is one of service. As a missionary, his life exemplified leadership. A part of our growth discipleship is becoming a servant to one another in the community of faith. At camp we learn the skills of building Christian community and grown in the enjoyment of serving our friends.

This aspect of the center's ministry also involves joining in service to others in the world that God created and loves. We are especially invited to serve those who are weaker or less fortunate. Each one of us is given first for the service of others and we are called to unique ministries and servant leadership to fulfill our lives both within and beyond the community of faith.

This expression of mission reveals deep and significant spiritual formation goals, which directly link to the work and life of the Conference and local congregations.