



Jonathan Emerson Twining

May 29, 2026

Jonathan Emerson Twining, 63, passed away peacefully on May 29, 2026, surrounded by his loving family after an extended illness. Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Emerson and Rita (Howells) Twining. He was the devoted husband of 37 years to Julia (Elsen) Twining.

Besides his wife, Jonathan is survived by his beloved son, Jonathan J. Twining; and many cherished aunts, uncles and cousins. He also leaves behind countless friends, colleagues, former students, and members of the many church communities he faithfully served throughout his life.

Jon dedicated his career to higher education as a college professor, sharing his passion for caring for God's creation with his students. He touched the lives of many young people over the years, inspiring them through his knowledge, compassion, and unwavering commitment to teaching them about caring for the environment. One of his favorite outdoor classrooms were vernal pools. He also took his students to Hawaii and Costa Rica, introducing them to the diverse ecosystems of each area. He was also involved in frog bioacoustics research in Costa Rica, with his close friend and colleague, Professor John Cossel, PhD. His influence extended far beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of those he mentored.

Jon made yearly mission trips to Sighisoara, Romania, between 1997-2003, with his wife Julie. The focus of these trips was to educate the local youth and residents about how to care for their environment and the importance of environmental stewardship. He took ENC students with him on several of these trips where they helped with the education. He touched the lives of many during these trips, while making lasting friendships.

A gifted musician, Jon found great joy in worship through music. He played guitar and sang with the worship teams of several churches over the years, using his talents to glorify God and encourage others in their faith.

Jon was also an enthusiastic nature photographer, his favorite subjects were sunrise/sunset at the beach and lakes.

During the last few years, Jon was actively involved in Virtual Eco missions. He helped to support the Upendo Conservation Area, focused on restoration and preservation of a protected area and the Snake Community Action Network (SCAN), focused on snakebite prevention, both located in Kenya.

Jon will be remembered for his deep faith in Jesus, kind spirit, dedication to his family, and the positive impact he made on so many lives. He will be greatly missed by his wife, son, extended family, friends, colleagues, and students.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Tufts Medical Center for the exceptional care and compassion Jon received throughout the past 18 months.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 1p at Hope Church, 1114 Scituate Avenue, Cranston, RI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to <https://givebutter.com/jonathan-emerson-twining-memorial-fund-lpdj37> in Jon's memory, to help support and continue the Virtual Eco Missions work in Kenya.

Tribute Wall

ZM

“ I met Jon in 2021 and we became food friends. He introduced me to snake lessons mainly on snake id, snake bite prevention, first aid. We used to have video calls with my family. My wife Faith and my daughter Divene we will miss jon
Condolences to the Twinning

Zablon Murega Mbogori - June 20 at 11:06 AM



“ Dr. Roberta Bustin: Jon and Julie Twining were in Romania the first month I was there (June, 1997). They were a real encouragement to me. Jon came back a couple of other times and worked with our Ecology Club and young people from the church and made a big difference in their lives. One person he led to the Lord is a pastor today, and many others remember the influence he had on them. His legacy lives on in Romania.

Margaret Scott - June 15 at 04:09 PM

MD

“ Dear Julie and Jared,

My heart is with you at this sad time. I would like to be able to visit you, but am unable to do so as I am confined to a wheelchair in assisted living. I have such fond memories of the times I shared with Jon over the years - weddings, graduations, Nags Head vacations, time at Grandma and Grandpa's, visits with you. And I could go on. I have always been proud of Jon's many accomplishments and of his love of God. His love for both of you was unequalled in his life. His final journey was incredibly difficult for all of you. May time allow you to have peace in your memories as you learn to live with your loss. I wish I could be there to celebrate the life of my dear and oldest nephew. But my thoughts will be with you through it all. God be there with you.

Myrna DeAustria - June 05 at 01:26 PM

LC

“ *I will always miss Mwalimu. He taught me how to train effectively. He will be missed.*

Lea Chiko - June 05 at 04:34 AM

KA

“ *Julia and Jonathon, I'm so sorry that you are experiencing such a great loss. I pray that you are able to find comfort in happier and healthier times with Jon. He sure does sound like quite a man who accomplished so much in his lifetime. God Bless, Katie Magni*

Katie - June 04 at 05:52 PM

SD

“ Shirley Davis lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Emerson Twining



Shirley Davis - June 04 at 03:34 PM

MM

“ Mary Mumbi lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Emerson Twining



Mary mumbi - June 04 at 02:18 PM

ME

You will forever be missed at SCAN prof..

Mercy - June 20 at 01:42 AM