



Debra C. Zimmerman

August 19, 1951 - July 25, 2025

Our Mother, Debra (Chafin) Zimmerman, age 73, passed peacefully with her family surrounding her while listening to her favorite playlist. Music has always been a big part of her life. From Pennsville High School Choir, she auditioned and joined the South Jersey Chorus. She continued her love of choir at Trinity United Methodist Church and loved the holiday cantatas. She also sang with the Salem Oak Singers. Her solo concerts were for us kids just around the house that included hymns, rock ballads, kid's songs, Broadway show-tunes and current hits. She was talented with making her own mix tapes of music for the car and always had a song to sing!

Everyone knew her favorite color was RED with strawberries being her favorite décor of all!

One of her favorite shows was Little House on the Prairie that brought up her memories of visiting family when she was a child in West Virginia. She was also a huge Miami Vice fan and loved watching ice skating during Olympics so much she followed the skater's careers. Similar to her music mix tapes she made her own VCR tapes of the ice-skating routines she enjoyed the most. She never considered herself 'crafty' but was a wizard with shiny mailing label tape, pretty ribbon and a box! Her form of recycling something to make it pretty was another thing she enjoyed.

Her favorite place to relax was parking at the river in Pennsville to watch the waves or sitting on the beach at Ocean City. You could usually find her on one of her bench swings admiring her beloved red maple tree outside her picture

window.

She provided in-home daycare for friends and family and created a loving environment to many children over the years.

Her favorite role in life however was becoming a Mom, Grandmom and recently was so excited to become a Great-Grandmom!

She was the most loving Mom to Larry (Valerie) Zimmerman, Lisa (Lou) Valentino and Amy Zimmerman.

She was the most patient and proud Mom-Mom to her seven (her favorite number!) granddaughters; Lauren (Audrey) Villa, Lacy (Chad) Zimmerman, Emily (Riley) Fisher, Carly Valentino, Vanessa (Dillon) Lindsay, Casey Valentino and Chloe Valentino.

She had a special adorable bond with her little Zachary when she became a Great-Grandmother and was excited for her new great-granddaughter coming in January.

She is survived by her brother, Don Chafin (Michele) and her Sister-In-Law, Mildred Pharo (Ben) along with many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Lawrence Zimmerman and her parents, Dewey and Dorothy Chafin, and recently her sister, Terry Chafin.

Please join us to honor our Mom, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 75 S. Broadway, Pennsville on Thursday, July 31, 2025. Visitation begins at 10:00am and service at 11:00 am with reception to follow at the F.O.P., 693 S. Broadway, Pennsville NJ. Burial will be private. Please wear red for Debra!

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
75 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Funeral Service

JUL 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
75 S. Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070

Tribute Wall

YF

“ *Your BWT Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Debra C. Zimmerman.*



Your BWT Family - July 30, 2025 at 04:59 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Debra C. Zimmerman.*



July 30, 2025 at 10:44 AM

CM

“ *Carol Molinari-Monks lit a candle in memory of Debra C. Zimmerman*



Carol Molinari-Monks - July 29, 2025 at 10:42 PM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Debra C. Zimmerman.*



July 28, 2025 at 02:05 PM

FK

“ To Debbie's family we are so sorry for your loss. We were neighbors on Cornell Rd. for 19 years. Our kids played together, she was our babysitter for awhile and even drove me to the hospital to have my daughter when I went into labor unexpectedly. She was one of the most loving and caring person I knew. She introduced me to Pennsville Methodist Church and took me to Bible study and volunteered me for vacation Bible school. We laughed together and we leaned on each other. She will be missed and always a part of my heart

Frances Kerper and John Kerper - July 28, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ Before Debbie was my aunt, she was my friend. We grew up together. She had a heart of gold. I'll never forget her sweet, soft-spoken voice and her love for singing. I have fond memories of sitting at the kitchen table in her mom's house talking about boy crushes when we were in high school. I felt so cool hanging out with her "senior" friends when I was a freshman at PMHS. When she was dating my Uncle Larry I was even allowed to tag along at times until they were married. I felt like she was my older sister. Although we lost touch over the years, it was like old times whenever we did get together. Rest in peace my sweet friend/aunt. I know I will see you again, singing your heart out in the heavenly choir. Until then, I love you and will miss you dearly.

Doris

Doris Carder - July 28, 2025 at 12:24 PM

DM

“ *Debbie was my hero. She always looked out for me exceptly after I lost my mother, Patsy. One thing I will really remember, when I was a single mom, she would come up to my appointment she would make sure she checked under my bed and checked every room, even the shower. Deb was a very concerning, caring and loving to everyone. I will miss not talking with her and hearing about her grandchildren and her new great great grandchildren. I love you Deb you will be missed.*

Donna Milligan - July 28, 2025 at 10:59 AM