



An Invitation for Your Congregation

Dear Friends,

Most of our congregations today are stretched thin for money, staffing, volunteers, and finding someone available to write and lead worship on a moment's notice. Yet we all still long to be together to sing, pray and hear the Word of God with our faith community.

Firebird Spirit's **Video Supply Preacher (VSP) Program** can help you meet those needs. Some churches may join us every Sunday; others only for occasional use. You can lean on us for a full service, or simply for a reading, a message, or music. Each week, you decide what best serves your needs and your people.

Participating churches receive a **private download link** that includes:

- A complete **service video**—prayers, Scripture, music, preaching, even monthly communion. Downloading in advance means no WiFi worries, no interruptions, and no ads mid-service.
- **Editable and printable documents** with all of the responses, readings and hymns that appear in the service. These can be easily adapted to your bulletin format should you so choose.
- You can use **your own leadership team** for readings and music, or lean into the complete video. This modular or hybrid approach empowers you to find the balance of video/in-person leadership that works best for you—whether that means using your own musicians, inviting lay readers, or simply pressing PLAY.

The heart of this program is simple: **This is a way to keep your congregation gathering, singing, and being nourished—without draining your treasury or your energy—even when your pastor is away.** For the cost of pulpit supply, you can cover one or many weeks of worship. This isn't about money for us. We are all “church people” at Firebird. This program is about offering **hope, continuity, and knowing you have companions on the journey** – a built-in backstop when you need it.

Not every church will need us. Some have multiple retired pastors in the area, or they live where supply preachers are plentiful. But that's not true for everyone.

You are warmly invited to preview our services on YouTube (@FirebirdSpiritHOPE), or to schedule a Zoom conversation for your leaders with members of our team. In the past year, over 80,000 viewers have joined us for online worship. “So why don’t we just watch the free video together?” Certainly, you can do that, but that means you need to be in a place with trustworthy WiFi that doesn’t “glitch,” and that you run the chance of a random ad in the middle of the service (over which we have no control). Plus, the VSP Program provides you with all of the responses, readings and hymns so you can print them in advance and even create large print editions if needed.

The impact of our very small staff is multiplied by thirty volunteers around the country – around the world, really, when you count our musical volunteers. That’s what motivates us to reach out and help other churches. We are committed to doing what we can with what we have, and so we share our gifts to create this casual, inclusive experience of Spirit every week.

We are including a partial listing of our Messengers (preachers) so you can see the caliber and breadth of leadership that we offer. You’ll notice that we have both Ministers of Word & Sacrament and Ruling Elders or people from other denominations that may not be clergy in a traditional sense. Whenever a non-ordained clergy person preaches, we will also include in the packet a sermon written for that day by an ordained minister on our team. (We vet our Messengers for their theology and delivery, but we know that for some churches, not having ordained clergy as the preacher could be problematic and we want to make everything as positive as possible.)

We hope you’ll reach out to us if this sounds like it might be helpful to you at some point. And if not ... please keep us in mind and share us with others if you hear them lamenting the lack of supply preachers.

We’re all in this together.

To God be the glory.

With care and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Lee Swift". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Deb Swift, Executive Director