



A Word about Our Community Leadership

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift,
Executive Director & Co-Founder



Rev. Deb Swift is the Executive Director and co-founder of Firebird Spirit, a spiritual movement cultivating a global **Community of Hope** through digital worship and sacred media.

An ordained minister for more than 35 years in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Deb served congregations across upstate New York before retiring from parish ministry in 2024 to focus full-time on Firebird Spirit, the independent nonprofit she co-founded in 2018.

Her work lives at the intersection of faith, media, and cultural change—helping congregations reimagine worship, leadership, and belonging in a rapidly shifting landscape. With master’s degrees in Education and Divinity, Deb brings pastoral wisdom, theological depth, and creative imagination to worship that is both deeply rooted and freshly expressed.

In addition to her ministry, Deb is an educator, musician, and coach. She is the author of *The Church Has Left the Building* and the creator of more than 200 original songs. Her work is shaped by a lifelong commitment to justice, inclusion, and Spirit-led transformation.



Kevin J Fuller, *Director of Operations & Technology*

Kevin Fuller brings more than 35 years of experience in administration, technology support, and systems management. For over 15 years, he has supported churches at every level—combining technical expertise with a deep understanding of ministry operations.

Kevin oversees Firebird Spirit’s technology infrastructure, digital worship delivery, and operational systems. His background includes extensive experience working with remote teams, volunteers, and media production, marketing, finance, all the while ensuring that worship resources are reliable, accessible, and easy to use for congregations of all sizes.



Andy Pratt, *Musician-in-Residence*

Andy Pratt is a Rochester, NY-based music educator, music director, pianist, and performer. He currently serves as Vocal Director and Director of Theatre for the Aquinas Institute, Minister of Music for South Presbyterian Church, accompanist for Gates Presbyterian Church, and Resident Musical Director for Blackfriars Theatre.

Our Messenger Team

Firebird Spirit's worship and preaching voices reflect a broad and trusted range of experience within and beyond the Reformed tradition. Our **Messenger Team** includes:

- Ordained ministers, elders, and deacons within the PC(USA)
- Chaplains, educators, interim leaders, and community ministers
- Leaders with experience in rural, suburban, urban, and online ministry
- Voices shaped by pastoral care, justice work, 12-step communities, interfaith engagement, and new worshipping communities

When a Messenger is not an ordained Minister of Word & Sacrament, a sermon written by an ordained minister is always provided as part of the Worship Supply Kit. Our 2025 Messengers included:

Rev. Ray Bagnuolo – PC(USA) – *Parish minister/hospital chaplain, connection with LGBTQIA+ communities and 12-step programs*

Elder Steve Bryson – PC(USA) – *Retired educational consultant and geologist with decades of experience in local parish work as both an ordained Deacon and Elder*

Elder M J Ebenhack – PC(USA) – *Former pastor, campus minister, chaplain, and nonprofit leader currently engaged in multifaith school-based religious education via Zoom with a Christian-Muslim school in Uganda*

Rev. Bill Hockey – PC(USA) – *Retired minister now serving within 12-step programs and ministries involving grief work and bereavement. Singer-songwriter in his spare time.*

Rev. Ray Jones – PC(USA) – *Interim Unified Agency and Director, Theology, Formation and Evangelism for the PC(USA) denomination*

Elder Sonya Kennedy – PC(USA) – *Ordained Deacon and Elder who founded and led two community ministries including one of the 1,001 New Worshipping Communities of the PC(USA)*

Rev. Marcia Reiff – PC(USA) – *Member of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and Pastor of two rural churches (one with the UCC) in upstate New York*

Rev. Deborah Roof – UCC – *Retired pastor and author of Words, Wonder, and the Divine in You, a reflective exploration of how ordinary language can open portals to the sacred*

Darlene Saeva – Baha'i Fellowship – *Long-time student of the Bible as it relates to Baha'i belief with a lifetime commitment to reconciliation and peacemaking both locally and globally*

Rev. Summer Sattora – PC(USA) – *Parish minister in upstate New York with a background in dramatic arts and a passion for mission, disaster relief and inclusion of all people*

Elder Barbara Sixbey – PC(USA) – *One of the originators of the Acts of Faith Model of Ministry and well-respected for her casual preaching and deep reflection of scripture*

Elder Karen Thomas – PC(USA) – *Life-time church leader with a background in systems theory and management styles. Currently serving as President of Firebird Spirit*

More Guest Messengers are always being added,
please submit a sample video sermon to **office@firebirdspirit.org**.

Volunteers & Community Participation

Firebird Spirit is supported by a growing network of thirty-plus volunteers who lead worship, read scripture, offer prayer, and share music from across the United States and beyond.

Our worship leaders currently serve from: Arizona, Florida, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington, and Utah.

Our musicians contribute from:

Austria, California, Florida, Georgia, Rochester, NY and the New York City area.

This wide participation reflects our belief that the Spirit speaks through many voices—and that worship is strengthened when community is shared.