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For Immediate Release

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OurJewishCommunity.org Launches Website Offers Live Videostreamed High Holiday Services and More

Cincinnati, Ohio, September 23, 2008—

Cincinnati-Ohio based Congregation Beth Adam is pleased to announce that its 2008 Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be available live on the internet through a new initiative: Our Jewish Community Online. OurJewishCommunity.org launched September 1st and will be a full-service progressive Jewish congregation on the web. Many Jews choose not to spend their time in brick-and-mortar congregations, so the bricks-and-clicks congregation was created.

The website offers access to rabbis, Jewish education materials, resources about Jewish holidays, lifecycle, and other topics, Rabbi Robert Barr's audio podcasts (Barr's Banter), audio files of sermons and Torah readings, Rabbi Baum's Blog, discussion forums, social networking, and more. For the High Holidays, all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be videostreamed live – and will be archived on the site for future viewing. The holidays are on September 29-30 and October 8-9, 2008.

Rabbi Laura A. Baum and Rabbi Robert B. Barr, rabbis of Congregation Beth Adam, have created the online congregation with the help of a group of volunteers. Both were ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Baum, the founding rabbi of OurJewishCommunity.org, said that "recognizing that Judaism has survived largely because of its willingness to evolve, we are seeking to create a Jewish experience that speaks to a contemporary generation. Many Jews feel that Judaism is alien to them and/or that they are outsiders in Jewish institutional life. We want to help create a community where progressive Jews feel empowered and validated."

Since its launch three and a half weeks ago, the site has attracted over 380 different visitors from all over the world. The site is an intentionally evolving process that will rely on the feedback and participation of visitors as it continues to be built.

OurJewishCommunity.org capitalizes on the history of Congregation Beth Adam, an independent congregation founded in 1980 by Rabbi Robert B. Barr. Over the past 28 years the congregation has developed a unique philosophy, viewing Judaism from a humanistic perspective. The congregation has written and sells its own award-winning liturgy and serves as a progressive voice in the Cincinnati Jewish community and beyond.

Rabbi Barr said “at a time when increasing numbers of Jews are choosing not to affiliate, with increasing mobility, and with more people using technology in all aspects of their lives, now is the time for Judaism to meet people where they are while providing a meaningful Jewish experience”

About Congregation Beth Adam

For nearly three decades, Congregation Beth Adam has approached Judaism from a humanistic perspective, dedicated to the celebration of traditional Jewish holidays and life cycle events. Rabbi Robert B. Barr, ordained in 1981 at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, has been with Beth Adam since its inception. Beth Adam provides Jewish experiences through religious services, child and adult education programs, Bar and Bat Mitzvah classes and services, social activities, and community social action programs. More information about Congregation Beth Adam is available at www.bethadam.org or by calling 513-985-0400.

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