STEP 2: WELCOME

Welcome opens the way for conversations: listen to questions, honor the questioner, and respect their curiosity.

Welcome is not simply opening the door and saying "you're welcome."

It means "I welcome your presence and your story

because Jesus welcomed us first."

Welcome means approaching the "other" with compassion, courage, and curiosity.

If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors—with our imagination as well as our eyes, like artists.

We must see not just their faces but the life behind and within their faces.

Then it is love that is the frame we see them in.

Frederick Buechner