

Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick
Naples UCC Book Discussion
Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 9AM
Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the “makeup” of those who boarded the Mayflower. What were their motivations?
2. Describe the theology and religious convictions of the Mayflower people. Is there anything good about Puritan theology? What are the dangers of this theology?
3. Hospitality was one of the virtues of the original settlers in the Americas. How did these people show hospitality to indigenous peoples?
4. Consider the following quote: “The Pilgrims knew that they could not blast, fight, and kill their way to a permanent settlement in New England” (73). How did they seek peace?
5. How was William Bradford depicted in this book? What was his theology? How did Dorothy Bradford’s fate (76) have an impact on his life?
6. “The children of the Saints felt no such fervor” (198). How was the second generation of pilgrims different from their predecessors and how did these differences lead them into trouble?
7. The final chapters of the book describe the tragedy and horrors of King Philip’s War. What started King Philip’s War? Could it have been avoided? What can be learned from the bloodshed?
8. How might the early Plymouth Colony be a model for a more virtuous America? “For a nation that has come to recognize that one of its strengths is in its diversity, the first fifty years of Plymouth Colony stand as a model for what America might have been from the very beginning” (347). Explain this quote as part of your answer.
9. Consider the following quote: “For peace and survival, others must be accommodated” (348). What can this book teach us about relationships between foreigners, foreign nations, and/or “hot button” topics related to immigration?
10. Is there anything about this book that might impact our own journey of faith or the journey of our church’s faith?