

We Hand Out Hope

COVID-19 has changed everything and now it has essentially killed Halloween! I don't know about you but next to Christmas and my birthday, Halloween was my favorite time of the year. What's not to love about dressing up and going out to receive free candy? Unfortunately, in 2020 Halloween has been cancelled in most places. A recent survey found that just 35% of Americans plan on passing out candy this year. Yet despite COVID-19, Americans plan to shell out \$7.4 billion — about \$78 per person — on costumes, candy, cards and decorations.¹

Perhaps, like many things today, Halloween is not cancelled it is simply different. We are finding creative ways to continue on with our lives in the face of this pandemic. Nowhere is that more clear than in the sale of candy. Our need for candy, especially chocolate, is pandemic and recession proof. One source reported this:

“U.S. sales of Halloween candy were up 13% over last year in the month ending Sept. 6, according to data from market research firm IRI and the National Confectioners Association. That's a bigger jump than the usual single-digit increases. Sales of Halloween chocolate alone are up 25%.”² My question is, who is eating all that candy? I think we know the answer!

All of this made me wonder about what would happen if, instead of spending billions of dollars on candy that we can't pass out, we gave to help give children hope and a future. Don't get me wrong, I love a good candy bar. Yet, our spending reveals much about our priorities.

Every time we gather, in person or online, we give you a chance to worship through the offering. Your giving is an obedient act of thanksgiving to God who provides all our needs. It also helps fuel the ministry of this church. A huge part of what we do here is minister to children. While that has been a challenge due to COVID-19, our mission to raise up the Next Gen of disciples for Christ will never change. Your generosity allows us to impact scores of children.

This year we might not be able to hand out candy, but we hand out something far more valuable, **we hand out hope!** So, join me in worship today by giving generously so we can continue sharing the hope of the Gospel.

1. <https://www.dekinderschatkist.nl/how-much-money-did-americans-spend-on-halloween-candy-in-2020.html>
 2. <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/americans-halloween-candy-2020 | 5f6c999ac5b674713cc86f22>
-